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The Times rock album award, page 5

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THE TIMES

No. 64,830 SATURDAY DECEMBER 18 1993

Judges urged to get tough

Drink-drive killers face 10 years' jail

BY RICHARD FORD AND KEVIN EASON

■ As the Christmas campaign against drink driving begins this weekend, judges are told to impose tough sentences on those who put others' lives at risk

DRUNKEN motorists who kill must face years in jail, the Lord Chief Justice ruled yesterday as he increased "over-lenient sentences" imposed on two men whose driving led to three deaths.

Those involved in the worst fatal accidents should be imprisoned for near the maximum ten years, and only in exceptional cases should killer drink-drivers escape jail, Lord Taylor of Gosforth said.

The Lord Chief Justice was speaking as he upheld an appeal by the Attorney-General that sentences passed on two drivers were not tough enough. One had been fined £250 after an accident that killed a mother and her baby daughter, the other had been jailed for nine months after his friend died in a crash during a "motorised pub crawl".

The new guidance coincided with the annual police clampdown on drink-drivers — who are responsible for as many deaths as murderers each year — and with a public outcry over the case of a teenager whose driving killed two young sisters and maimed their playmate. But Lord Taylor was himself accused of failing to heed his own advice and of imposing "ludicrously light" sentences in the two cases before him yesterday.

Peter Shepherd, who had been fined and banned for two years over the deaths of Tracey and Madison Fairhead, was jailed for three months, while Robert Wernet had his nine-month sentence doubled and a two-year ban increased to five years for causing the death of John McCallum.

Shepherd, 29, a student from Enfield, north London, had drunk four cans of lager when he gave Ms Fairhead and her daughter a lift home. They had not been wearing seatbelts and died instantly when Shepherd crashed his van into the back of a parked lorry. Two hours later, he was found to have 82mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood — 2mg over the legal limit. Wernet, 27, from Oxford, had drunk five pints of lager when his uninsured car somersaulted into a wall after he lost control at 60 mph. Four hours later, he was 4mg over the limit.

Issuing his guidance, Lord



Taylor: sentences condemned as too light

Taylor said that in exceptional cases when drivers were just over the limit and there was strong mitigation, a non-custodial sentence was possible. "But in other cases a prison sentence is required to punish the driver, to deter others from drinking and driving, and to reflect the abhorrence of deaths being caused by drivers with excess alcohol."

In the very worst cases — such as racing along the highway and where the driver denied the offence — guilty motorists should face sentences near the maximum permitted. That maximum was doubled to ten years in August, but the two men before the Court of Appeal yesterday had committed their offences before the new sentences came into force.

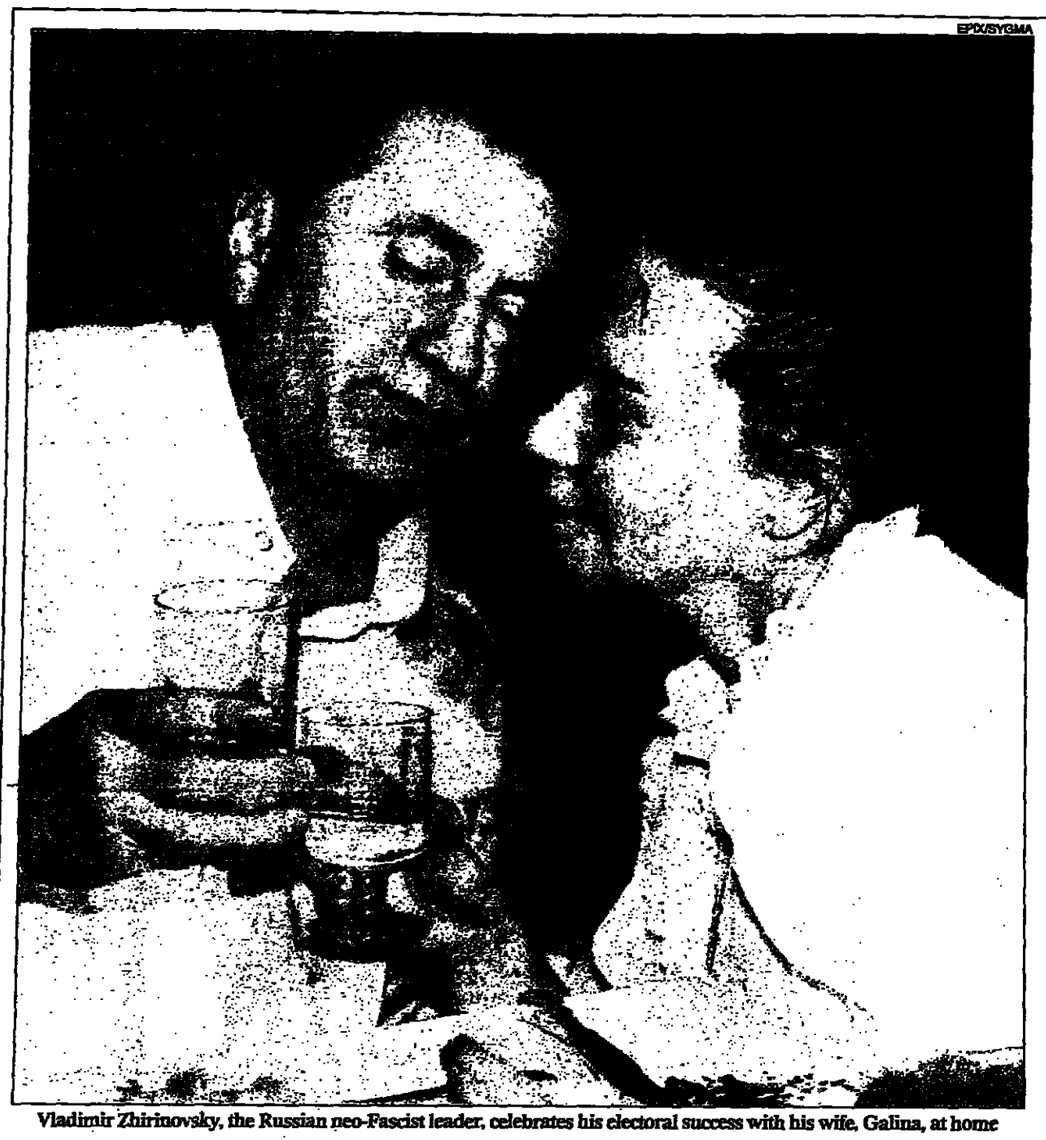
Nevertheless, relatives of the victims and drink-driving campaigners condemned the punishment of Shepherd and Wernet as inadequate. Kenneth Boyd, Ms Fairhead's father, said: "It is a mockery, not a deterrent. This judgment will let everyone off the hook. They will all be drunk again this Christmas."

John Knight of the Campaign Against Drink Driving said the new sentences almost gave a green light for drunken drivers to go on killing people, while Doug Hoyle, the Labour MP for Warrington North, said: "Even the increased sentences seem ludicrously light. We can only hope that judges elsewhere will heed what the Lord Chief Justice has said and pass stiffer sentences."

The two cases came three days after a ten-year-old girl who lost both her legs in a fatal accident condemned the four-year-sentence on Robert Hoe, who killed her two best friends. Leigh-Ann Johns said: "I think he should have been in jail for life."

At the same time, the Metropolitan Police made clear that it is committed to what amounts to blanket breath testing of drivers and officers will particularly look out for "hard-core offenders" — typically men in their forties or fifties who believe that drink improves their driving skills.

Mad drivers, page 13



EPX/SYGMA

Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the Russian neo-Fascist leader, celebrates his electoral success with his wife, Galina, at home

Russia's Fascist woos the women

BY ANNE MCELVOY

VLADIMIR Zhirinovsky, the Russian neo-Fascist leader who claims he does not really love his wife, Galina, has apparently realised that the norms of the West are making themselves felt in Russian politics. He must therefore court the women's vote with some of the same techniques.

Women have played a more than usually important role in his life. He was brought up by his aunt and this week he blamed her death in Kazakhstan on his political foes. An aide announced that she "had been unable to stand the flow of lies and abuse against her beloved nephew".

The aide added: "He is very upset. She was his closest relative who effectively brought him up while his mother was at work. Vladimir keeps recollecting all those little episodes from his childhood — his aunt cooking meals for him and washing his clothes."

During the allotted television campaign time, hoping to convince audiences of his reliability, Mr Zhirinovsky indulged in vulgar puns, becoming a Slavic Alf Garnett. He philosophised about the meaning of life and the price of drink, and the viewers loved him.

Domestic image, page 12

Torturers convicted of murder

BY PAUL WILKINSON

FOUR people, including two women and a teenage boy, were yesterday convicted of the murder of Suzanne Capper, who they systematically tortured and then set on fire.

Mr Justice Potts told three of the accused — Jean Powell, 26, her estranged husband Glyn Powell, 29, and Bernadette McNeilly, 24 — that they had been found guilty on clear evidence of "as appalling a murder as it is possible to imagine". They stood stone-faced as he sentenced them to life imprisonment.

The fourth person found guilty of murder, Anthony Dudson, 17 — convicted on a 10-2 majority verdict — was ordered to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure.

During the 22-day trial, the jury at Manchester Crown Court was told how Miss Capper was held captive for nearly a week at the homes of Jean Powell and McNeilly because of "insubstantial, even trivial" incidents. The girl was tied to a bed, beaten and tortured, then driven to woods near Stockport, doused in petrol and set on fire.

She managed to stagger a quarter of a mile to get help, but died four days later after suffering 70 per cent burns.

Four get life, page 3

Gunmen agree to talk about Ulster's future

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ULSTER'S peace initiative inched forward yesterday when Loyalist paramilitaries announced that they were studying the Downing Street declaration carefully and they called for a unionist political forum to discuss the future of the province.

Republicans also kept hopes alive when sources said that the IRA and Sinn Fein were embarking on weeks of consultation among their thousands of supporters, and Cardinal Cahal Daly, the Catholic primate of all Ireland, said that peace was coming into view.

The Loyalist statement last night signalled a serious interest in the declaration, although the paramilitaries said that their violent campaign would continue. The Combined Loyalist Military Command, which represents the outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters and the Ulster Volunteer Force, said: "A comprehensive response will be made in due course after clarification on certain issues has been sought and received. In the interim period and in the absence of any response from the provisional murder gangs, the Combined Loyalist Military Command will pursue its stated policy in relation to IRA violence."

The military command said it would compare the Downing Street declaration with its own six principles on Northern Ireland, which were outlined a week ago last Friday. These demanded that there should be no compromise on Ulster's position in the United Kingdom, although they did propose cross-border co-operation between elected representatives as long as such a move did nothing to undermine the union.

Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, disclosed yesterday that he had sent messages to Loyalist paramilitaries and that parts of the Downing Street declaration were designed to satisfy the demands made by Loyalists last week. He told the Dail that the fifth paragraph of the declaration, which said that Irish unity could not be imposed, was drawn up after he sent a message to the Loyalist paramilitaries.

Mr Reynolds's revelation underlined the delicate work carried out by Dublin behind the scenes to make sure the declaration would be considered seriously by paramilitaries on both sides. His speech in the Dail was aimed primarily at reassuring Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein presi-

Continued on page 2, col 5

Letters, page 15

Hope for Croat peace deal

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE

THE war between Bosnia's Muslims and Croats is on the brink of ending after a series of secret talks masterminded by an American congressman, Frank McCloskey. An alliance between the two sides is expected to be announced in Geneva early next week as part of a sweeping deal that shifts the balance of power in the region and offers a shining hope for peace.

The pact should bring instant relief for hundreds of thousands of civilians trapped by fighting between Muslim-led Government forces and Bosnian Croats. Barring last-minute hitches, aid convoys will be able to move much more freely and the ordeal for 55,000 Muslims besieged by Croat forces in Mostar would end. Sylvana Foa, of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said: "This would turn night into day for us."

Mirza Hajric, for the Bosnia Information Centre in London, said yesterday: "I hope, essentially, that this war is over." Spokesmen for the Bosnian government said the two sides were expected to reveal details, perhaps even before the peace process resumes in Geneva on Tuesday.

The new alliance will increase pressure on Bosnian Serbs to cede territory to the Muslims.

Serbia visions, page 13

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It's break early for Christmas this year

BY DAVID PARSLEY

CHRISTMAS holiday makers are taking a longer than usual break this year, with many people preparing for a two-week absence from work.

This weekend will see the start of a larger than usual exodus to beach and ski resorts. Tour operators have reported a 10 per cent increase in overseas bookings, with more than 250,000 Britons opting for Christmas abroad. The exodus has started a week ahead of schedule: some 43,000 travellers flew from Gatwick yesterday, and a further 100,000 are scheduled to leave over the weekend.

Lunn Poly, Britain's largest travel agent, said that with a flight and two weeks' holiday costing as little as £99 in Tenerife, Gran Canaria and the Costa del Sol, British families were turning their backs on Christmas at home.

Bookings have increased for long-haul journeys to places such as Kenya, Australia, Egypt and, above all, the Carribean. "I wish I had more seats available. People are queuing up to fill them," a spokesman said.

Country hotels in Britain also report near full booking from this weekend until the New Year, indicating that the Christmas break will be longer than ever. York, Bath, Chester and Stratford are the favoured destinations, at London's expense.

Howard plan to 'retilt justice'

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Howard yesterday published far reaching proposals to change the criminal justice system and introduce the biggest shake-up in the police for thirty years.

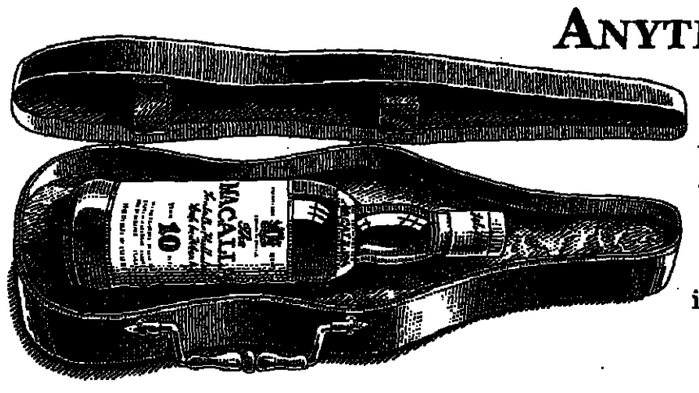
His proposals, in a 117 clause Bill, will lead to many more youngsters under the age of 14 being held in detention, modify the right to silence and curb the activities of squatters and ravers.

A second Bill will overhaul the police service, giving chief constables more flexibility but introduces Home Office appointed chairmen to police authorities. Mr Howard said he wanted to retilt the balance of justice which he claimed had "shifted too far in favour of the criminal and against the victim".

Reform of police authorities will be strongly resisted by Labour and senior police officers, alarmed that they will greatly centralise the police.

Howard bill, page 6
Anthony Lester, page 14
Leading article, page 15

ANYTHING LESS WOULD BE A FIDDLE.



THE MACALLAN'S PLACE AS LEADER OF THE GREAT BAND of whiskies was roundly spelt out the other day in a learned magazine.

The writer mused on the meaning of the term 'Grande Marque' which, he concluded, means simply 'Big Name'–and, he went on, 'Rolls Royce, Harrods, The Macallan and *STRADIVARIUS* are all Grande Marques in their spheres.'

So there you have it. Since the season for expansive gestures is now upon us, the gift of a bottle of The Macallan Malt Whisky* is surely the most affordable way to make your own *GRAND MARK* this Christmas.



* *Now also in the new half-bottle stocking-thriller size.*

The MACALLAN. *The* MALT.

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Remaining wise members follow their own stars

For the Commons, 1993 ended yesterday. The House adjourned for Christmas. Backbenchers took the traditional opportunity to raise concerns in short debates which the appropriate minister attends and answers. At 11am I took my seat in the Press Gallery, peering into an almost empty Chamber.

Almost but not quite. I could see three MPs. Two men and a woman, in three separate worlds.

Rising as I sat was the MP for Devon W & Torridge, Emma Nicholson. Her subject was the world's response to the terrible fate of the marsh Arabs of Iraq. Passionate and absorbed, Miss Nicholson may have been at Westminster, but her heart was 3,000 miles away. She is near despair.

The second of our trio, David Heathcoat-Amory, was the minister to respond. Though Miss Nicholson had his respect, this debate was not of his choosing. A courteous and humane man, his mind was nevertheless over the road at King Charles Street, where the Sir Humphreys of the FCO had reminded him that HMG was disinclined to go to war in the Iraqi marshes — so would the minister please give no reason to think otherwise. The ornamental part of this minister was in the Chamber; the functional part at the FCO.

And our third MP? This was the whip on the bench, Robert Hughes: there in case of trouble. His presence was precautionary and he had no other role, so it is not to this whip's discredit that he, too, was elsewhere in spirit. He had some envelopes to explore and letters to fold. Christmas brings its seasonal duties.

The debate began. Miss Nicholson explained in expert detail what was wrong with the UN's response mechanism for catastrophes. The minister studied his own speech. The whip opened a big Christmas card. There was something so admirable about Nicholson's combination of passion with application. When her proper share of the time was through, she had only described the background. Now she began describing what was happening in Iraq. Millions of humans, birds and animals were dying, she said. The gathering strength of her case did not discomfit the minister, as it meant he would have less time to reply. He put his speech-notes down. The whip opened more cards, dusted his lapel, and began filing the correspondence temporarily in the rack behind him.

But Nicholson could not leave Iraq. Coolly yet in horror she called Saddam Hussein's draining of the marshes "civil engineering as a weapon of international terrorism". The damage to wildlife was incalculable. She had been there often to see it. Complete villages had been wiped out. Half a million people had been deprived of water. Everywhere there was drying, stinking mud ...

The whip began sealing envelopes, collecting the tear-off sticky bits in a little bunch for later disposal. The minister, realising he would hardly have to speak, looked around.

... A whole, ancient, civilisation was being extinguished, said Miss Nicholson. This was "a vast disaster of unparalleled proportions". Soon, rescue would be too late.

The whip assembled his letters into a neat pile. The minister assembled his thoughts for a bland, four-minute speech, thanking her for her concern ...

And made it. The whip looked content that the debate was over without incident. Nicholson looked anxious, disappointed, doubly determined. And off the three went for Christmas. Three MPs in three worlds.

Anger as Ashdown backs call for expulsion

PETER TRIEVNOR



Jeremy Shaw at home yesterday. A party report recommends his expulsion from the Liberal Democrats

Lib Dems threaten to defect over racism row

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

LIBERAL Democrats in Tower Hamlets are considering forming a breakaway party in an internal feud over allegations of racism.

Paddy Ashdown, the party leader, was fighting last night to prevent defections by Tower Hamlets activists after a party report demanded the expulsion of members, including a former mayor, who sent out "offensive" leaflets during the recent Millwall council by-election won by the British National Party. Mr Ashdown endorsed the report and pressed for the expulsions of activists accused in the report of using tactics that "pandered to racist sentiment".

Party members accused him of "bitter betrayal" and threatened resignations, which could mean Liberal Democrats losing the only inner-city council where they have overall control.

The enquiry also recommends that three Liberal Democrats should be disciplined by the party's London regional executive. Disciplinary action could include imposing their being banned from standing for election in next May's council elections, where the Liberal Democrats will be defending their 29 seats.

Another former mayor of Tower Hamlets, Eric Flounders, announced that he would resign from the party, sparking fears that a hard-core of members would set up their own independent group and wipe out the party's small majority on the council.

The party's London regional executive was meeting last night to consider the report and whether to follow its recommendations.

The enquiry team, led by Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC, was formed after Labour complained about racist leaflets being distributed in September's by-election.

The report named three party activists, whom it said should be expelled. Jeremy Shaw, former mayor of Tower Hamlets, Jonathan Mathews and Tom Winnifrith were said to have brought the party "into disrepute" by distributing leaflets which, the report claimed, would provoke hostility towards ethnic minority residents in Tower Hamlets.

The members had been "profoundly misguided", although the authors of the report doubted that they yet understood this.

The councillors, and other members of the Tower Hamlets party, launched an immediate counter-offensive, claiming that party leaders had been aware of some of the activities which were castigated in the report.

The disciplinary action was called for against three councillors, John Snooks, Jim Smith and Betty Wright, whom the report said had "wholly failed to co-operate with the enquiry."

In a wider attack on the running of the Tower Hamlets party, the report also heavily criticised "a continuing course of conduct ... which pandered to racist sentiment among white residents." It recommended that a full-time officer should supervise campaigning in May's local elections.

Mr Flounders returned his torn-up membership card after 31 years in the party, in protest at the enquiry's recommendations to expel three members. An emergency meeting is being held tomorrow when more resignations could take place.

Mr Flounders said: "We would be better off without the and keep control of the borough as a breakaway party without Paddy Ashdown."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Voters reject Labour quotas for women

Most voters oppose Labour's decision to increase the number of women MPs by imposing quotas on constituencies. Sixty-one per cent of respondents in an NOP poll rejected all-women shortlists and 28 per cent backed the idea. Women were marginally more in favour. When John Smith first announced the decision local parties told Labour officials they would resist any attempt to force them to accept positive discrimination.

The poll of 1,000 people suggests that most voters do not care about the gender of their MPs are as long as they are effective. When asked whether it would be a good thing to have more female MPs or whether the gender of MPs mattered as long as they were good, three out of four agreed with the latter view. Voting intentions for men and women were exactly the same, with Labour at 47 per cent and the Conservatives at 27 per cent.

Teacher's killer on run

A warrant was yesterday issued for the arrest of Joseph Elliott, 19, of Streatham, south London, who failed to appear at South Western Magistrates' Court in Battersea, southwest London, on charges of possessing an offensive weapon and jumping bail. Mr Elliott was acquitted by an Old Bailey jury of murdering music teacher Robert Osborne last December.

Naval base to close

HMS Malabar, a tiny Royal Navy station built in Bermuda 183 years ago, is to be closed in April 1995, the Government said yesterday. The base, manned by 13 Royal Navy staff and 15 local civilians, costs £1 million a year to run. British and Nato warships and submarines are refuelled there and it is popular with crews seeking rest and recreation.

MP's libel damages

Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman, Tory MP for Lancaster, won "substantial" libel damages and an apology in the High Court over articles in three local newspapers that suggested she might go bankrupt over losses at Lloyd's. Lancaster and Morecambe Newspapers acknowledged that her losses were well within her means.

Sir Robert Reid dies



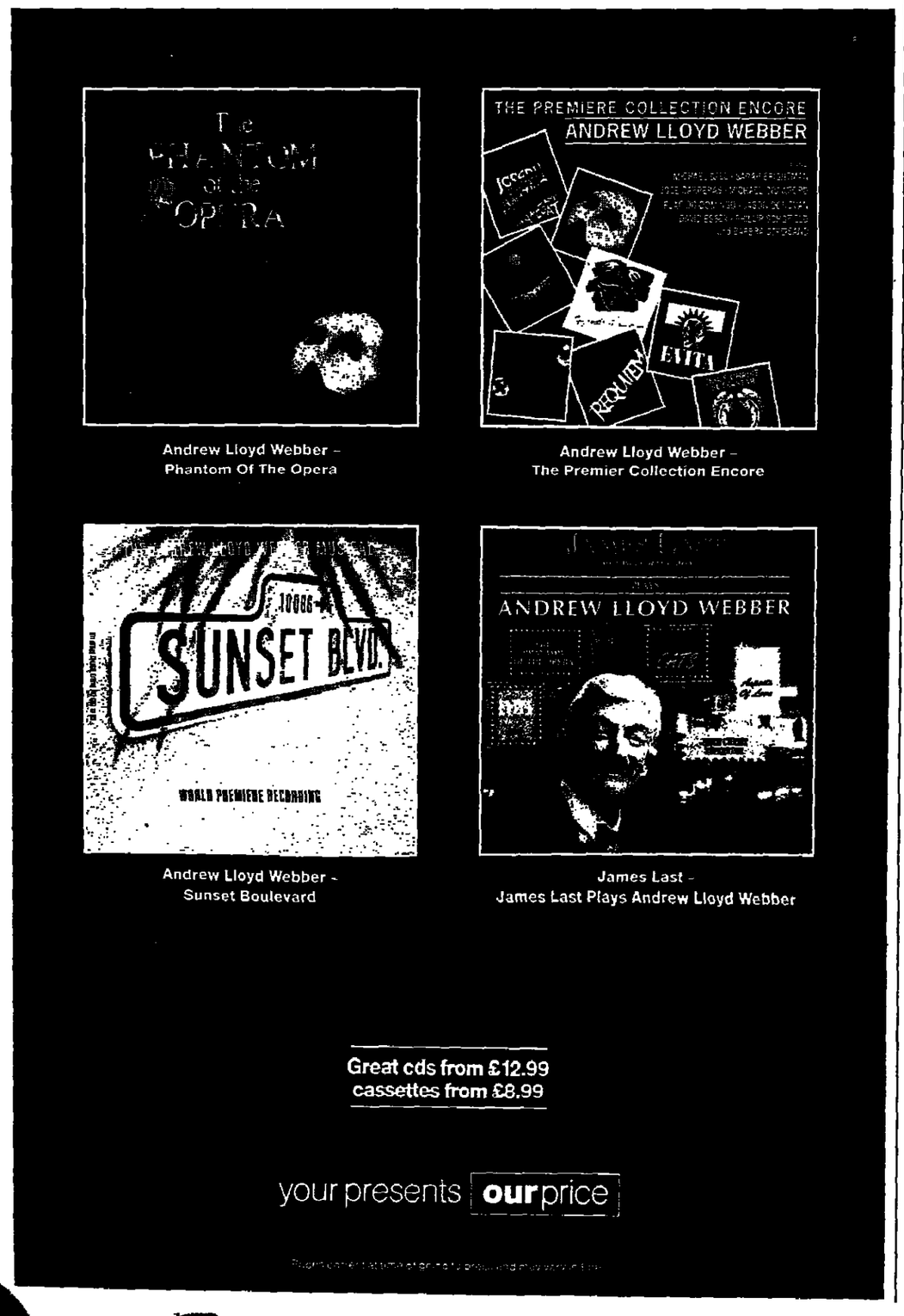
Sir Robert Reid, right, the former chairman of British Rail, died yesterday aged 72, after a long illness. His career on the railways began in 1947 and he was BR chairman from 1983-90. Sir Bob Reid, who succeeded him as chairman, said yesterday: "Sir Robert was the architect of the revival of the railways in the 1980s. He achieved great change during a difficult period."

Obituary, page 17

Women bishops verdict

The Most Rev Robert Eames, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, submitted the report of the Commission on Communion and Women to the Archbishop of Canterbury. It said women bishops in the Anglican Communion should be welcomed when visiting other provinces.

Photograph, page 18



Andrew Lloyd Webber - Phantom Of The Opera
Andrew Lloyd Webber - The Premier Collection Encore
Andrew Lloyd Webber - Sunset Boulevard
James Last - James Last Plays Andrew Lloyd Webber

Gunmen agree to talk on Ulster

Continued from page 1

dent, after he called for clarifications from Dublin.

Mr Adams, who has responded cautiously to the declaration, is believed to want further concessions and guarantees from Dublin. He is to resume his talks with John Hume, the SDLP leader, who is expected to pass on his concerns to the Dublin government.

Mr Reynolds said Sinn Fein and the IRA were looking for an alternative to violence, and added that this progress should have been more warmly welcomed. He outlined his plans for a forum involving all political parties in the whole of Ireland, including Sinn Fein, if the IRA gave up violence.

"The forum would provide a means to debate and devise appropriate alternative political strategies to violence which will genuinely advance the cause of reconciliation," he said.

However, the proposed forum ran into immediate trouble when unionists from both parties said they would not take part. The Rev Ian Paisley, the leader of the Democratic Unionists, who has vehemently opposed the Downing Street declaration, said Mr Reynolds was as bad as the IRA.

Republican sources indicated yesterday that the leaders of the movement are so serious about the declaration, and so concerned about splits in the IRA, that it would take weeks of talks before a response was agreed. It is understood this means the traditional Christmas ceasefire will happen without being announced.

Letters, page 15

CORRECTION

A production of *Whistle Down the Wind* is being transferred to the Lilian Baylis Theatre (opening on December 20) and not to the West End as reported on December 11. The presentation, with a cast of 75 drawn from throughout the UK, is by the National Youth Music Theatre.

Arms-to-Iraq trial was misled

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A KEY prosecution witness in the Matrix Churchill arms-to-Iraq trial admitted yesterday that he misled the Old Bailey jury on three crucial points.

Eric Beston, a former official at the Department of Trade and Industry in charge of export controls, claimed at the Scott enquiry into the affair that he had been mistaken and misled himself.

The trial collapsed last year after ministers failed to suppress evidence that the Government had known that the firm was selling equipment to Iraqi munitions factories.

Mr Beston admitted that he was wrong to say in court that the DTI did not know that machines built by Matrix Churchill were being used by the Iraqis to make weapons; he incorrectly claimed that the firm had given assurances that the machines would be used for civil purposes; and wrongly stated that no intelligence emerged during 1989 to link Matrix Churchill with the Iraqi arms industry.

The enquiry was told how Mr Beston gave evidence in court that the DTI had no knowledge that a consignment of machine tools shipped to Iraq in 1988 was to make weapons. In fact, he had seen a secret MI6 report stating that the equipment would be used to produce artillery shells. Nevertheless, Mr Beston had been involved in advising ministers to allow the equipment to go.

In court he also claimed that the Government had allowed Matrix Churchill to continue exporting to Iraq only after an assurance that the equipment was intended for peaceful purposes. However, the only assurance the firm gave the DTI was that the Iraqis — majority shareholders in the company — were not involved in day-to-day management.

In court, Mr Beston had been asked if any information had emerged during 1989. Yesterday he admitted to the Scott enquiry that he failed to mention an intelligence report linking the firm with Iraq's missile programme.

Tories quarrel over party invitations

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE MPs are locked in a power struggle with the party high command over its decision to stop them from privately inviting Cabinet ministers to visit their constituencies.

Senior backbenchers are to question Sir Norman Fowler, the party chairman, over his decision to make MPs apply for speakers on the "rubber chicken circuit" of constituency dinners and to give party officials the final word over who goes where.

They say that they should be allowed to retain the time-honoured tradition of arranging ministerial visits with a quiet word in the Commons smoking room.

MPs say that, at a time when the Government is sweeping away red tape with its deregulation Bill, it is absurd for party bureaucrats to dream up three new forms — two pink and one yellow — simply to invite a Cabinet minister for dinner.

Gerry Malone, a deputy chairman of the party, yesterday strongly defended the new regime. He said it was needed to sharpen up the Tories' campaigning effort and was intended to ensure that ministers made an impact on the local political scene when they ventured out of London.

The information on the forms would be used by central office to co-ordinate campaigning activities, cut costs, draw up programmes for ministers that took in a number of regional stop-overs and maximise local media coverage.

Protests surfaced at Thursday night's meeting of the 1922 committee of Tory backbenchers when Sir George Gardiner (Reigate) won strong backing for his demand that central office abandon the scheme, which was introduced in September, for all visits by Cabinet ministers and ministers of state.

Sir George said he was amazed that a party committed to deregulation should be insisting that MPs or their agents complete "pink forms A and AA and yellow form B" to invite a senior minister to their constituencies.

Mr Malone said: "I am slightly surprised that complaints are being raised about it when it is already working. We have a series of tours in the West Country and North East set up for the new year putting ministers in constituencies that have not had a visit for some time."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

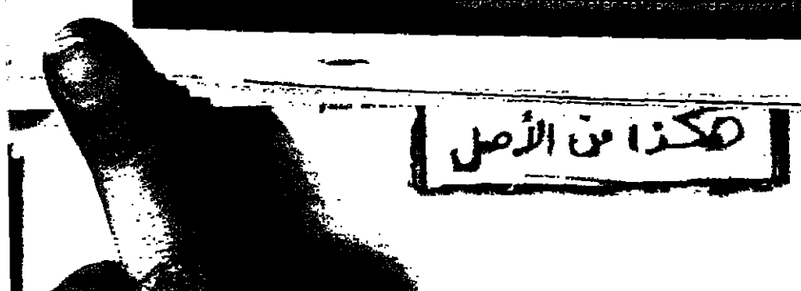
Erica Jong on women, sex and marriage

Erica Jong has talked sex voraciously for 20 years, since her book Fear Of Flying. Her fingers have tweaked it and her brain has



creamed it into an unstoppable voice. But now, for Jong, the new sexual politics is a minefield ...

Erica Jong's astonishing new views on sexuality — The Magazine, The Sunday Times tomorrow



'It was as appalling a murder as it is possible to imagine' — Mr Justice Potts

Four given life after girl tortured and burnt alive

BY PAUL WILKINSON

FOUR people were convicted of murder yesterday for what police described as the most brutal torture and killing since the Moors murders 30 years ago.

After nearly 10 hours' deliberation the jury at Manchester Crown Court found the four guilty of the murder of Suzanne Capper, 16, who died a year ago today after a week of physical and mental torture. Their final act was to soak her in petrol and leave her burning in a remote wood. She suffered 70 per cent burns and died after four days in hospital.

Mr Justice Potts told Jean Powell, 26, her estranged husband Glyn, 29, and Bernadette McNeilly, 24: "Each of you has been convicted on clear evidence of murder which was as appalling a murder as it is possible to imagine."

He jailed them for life and ordered that Anthony Dudson, 17, who was 16 at the time of the killing, should be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure.

As the sentences were announced two women jurors wept and there were cries of "yes, yes" from the public gallery, which was filled with relatives of the dead girl who have spent 22 days listening to evidence of the agonies inflicted on her.

The jury also found Jean Powell and McNeilly, who shared a house in Moston, Greater Manchester, guilty of conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm. They had pleaded guilty to false imprisonment and were sentenced to 20 years for the two lesser charges.

Dudson, also of Moston, was convicted of murder by a majority verdict and convicted unanimously on a charge of conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm. He also had admitted false imprisonment. Glyn Powell was found guilty of all three charges unanimously and also sentenced to 20 years for the lesser charges.

A fifth defendant, Jeffrey Leigh, 27, of Moston, was cleared of murder and conspiracy to commit grievous bodily harm, but was jailed for 12 years after admitting false imprisonment.

Clifford Pook, 18, Jean Powell's brother, also from Moston, had earlier been cleared of murder on the judge's direction but had admitted conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm and false imprisonment. He was ordered to be detained for 15 years.

Detectives on the case said that for sheer mindless brutality it ranked alongside the torture inflicted by the Moors murderers Ian Brady and Myra Hindley on their child victims.

Miss Capper had been kidnapped for "insubstantial, even trivial" reasons, the court was told. But as her imprisonment continued her treatment worsened until the attackers' only hope of avoiding detection was murder.

They had three grievances: Jean Powell believed the teenager had tried to persuade her to sleep with an Arab for money; McNeilly and Dudson believed they had contracted lice after sleeping together in a bed that Miss Capper had used; and McNeilly also believed she had taken her pink duffle coat.

On Monday, December 7, last year, Powell and McNeilly confronted her about the coat at her stepfather's home in Moston. She was taken away on the pretext of staying with a friend, but was taken to the house the women shared near by.

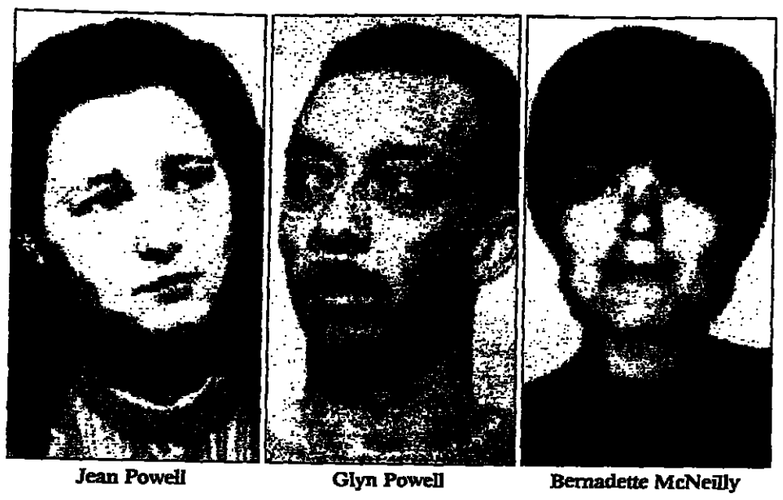
Glyn Powell and Dudson were already there. The four first cut off Miss Capper's hair and eyebrows and ordered her to shave her pubic hair. She was beaten before being forced into a cupboard where she spent the night.

The next day, because of fears that the six children of Jean Powell and McNeilly would be disturbed by her crying, she was moved to McNeilly's own house, which was empty, three doors away.

There she was tied to the four legs of an upturned bed. Over the next five days Leigh joined the four in a series of violent acts upon Miss Capper, increasing in severity and brutality as the time passed. She was regularly beaten and injected with amphetamines and loud music was played through headphones. She was dumped in a bath and scrubbed fiercely with neat disinfectant because of the stench from her own excrement. Pook used pliers to rip out two of her teeth.

A week after the abduction it was agreed that Miss Capper should be killed. A car was stolen in Manchester and the Powells, Dudson and McNeilly took her to remote woodland 15 miles away at Werneth Low, near Stockport. Clad only in briefs and leggings, she was thrown into a bramble patch and doused in petrol. Glyn Powell twice tried to set her alight before succeeding by holding his cigarette lighter against her back.

The attackers fled, believing the teenager was dead, but she was able to stagger a quarter of a mile for help. In spite of her terrible injuries she lived for four days, giving police enough information to arrest her killers.



Jean Powell

Glyn Powell

Bernadette McNeilly



Anthony Dudson



Jeffrey Leigh



Clifford Pook



Suzanne Capper, 16, was murdered after a week of beatings and torture

Horror tape played to victim was linked to Bulger case

BY A STAFF REPORTER

SUZANNE Capper was tortured to the sounds of a tape depicting the horror video character who was linked to the murder of James Bulger.

Police believe the tape of the Chucky doll's chilling catchphrase "I'm Chucky, wanna play?" was repeatedly played to her through headphones while she was tied to a bed for days. It was part of her systematic torture.

The diabolical doll character features in the *Child's Play* series of films. In one the Chucky character, like James Bulger, is covered in blue paint and mutilated under the wheels of a train.

Inspector Peter Wall said the accused in the Capper case seemed to spend much of their days sitting around listening to music. At the time of the murder the *Child's Play* soundtrack was popular on local radio in Manchester.

The jury was told that one of the accused, Bernadette McNeilly, would shout: "I'm Chucky. Wanna play?" or "Chucky's been playing". A 45-minute tape made from the radio, repeating a rave dance track featuring the doll's "Wanna play?" catchphrase, was found at the house by police.

However, Mr Wall discounted a direct influence of videos on the death of Miss Capper because the house where she was held did not have a video player, although there was a television. "There is no suggestion that they sat around watching horror films," Mr Wall said.

He admitted that at the start of the enquiry none of the investigating team had been aware of the contents of the *Child's Play* films.

"But we watched them later," he added. "There are tenuous links. In one of the films Chucky gets destroyed by fire — just as Suzanne was burnt. But throughout interviews with the accused there was no suggestion that the reason Suzanne was killed had anything to do with *Child's Play*."

Gentle teenager was fatally attracted to 'house of evil'

BY PAUL WILKINSON

SUZANNE Capper was a gentle and easily-influenced girl who suffered the fatal misfortune of falling under the spell of a gang of petty thieves and drug abusers. The dilapidated house in which she was tortured, situated in a seedy Manchester suburb, acted as a magnet for outcasts and addicts.

The teenager lived in awe of Jean Powell, one of those jailed for her murder yesterday, whose home she used as a refuge from the world outside. Even though Powell, 26, treated her like a servant, Suzanne was a regular there when she should have been at school. She often stayed overnight.

John Capper, the dead girl's step-father called Powell's home in Moston, Greater Manchester, a "house of evil" which drew in vulnerable young people. Powell herself was a powerful character who dominated those around her. Police investigating the killing soon marked her down as the ring leader whom all the others set out to please.

Her house was a centre for drug dealing and the handling of stolen cars. Powell would weigh out amphetamines on kitchen scales in her living room while her customers waited. Two of her co-accused, Jeffrey Leigh, 27, and Anthony Dudson, 17, were known car thieves. Dudson had been a sexual partner of both Powell and Suzanne when he was still only 16.

Powell's associates were venal and easily-led: unemployed drifters, drug abusers and car thieves who hung around the house to take advantage of the credit she allowed on drug deals. This was the kind of life Suzanne Capper was familiar with by the time she reached 16. It was an amoral world of crime and frequent sexual activity.

Suzanne had a much older boy friend, Eddie Monaghan, 48, with whom she planned to share a flat. She became streetwise, but still vulnerable and innocent compared with the others who congregated there. In 1990 she had spent time in the care of the local authority after her mother, Elizabeth Capper, and her step-father divorced. They had married in 1979 and Suzanne and her older sister Michelle had assumed his name.

After the Cappers separated, the two girls stayed with their step-father. He described Suzanne as "a high-spirited, well-meaning girl" who had a lot of friends and seemed to be happy. "She helped me immensely around the house and was thoroughly polite," Mr Capper said.

Suzanne had been babysitting for Powell's three children since the age of ten, but soon after her parents split up she and her sister developed a friendship with Powell. Mr Capper said he tried to discourage it, but "many people were pulled in by her strong will. It was no use."

Michelle moved in, but she left in August 1992 because she did not like the "evil" new friends Powell was bringing home. Among them was Bernadette McNeilly, 24, who brought her three young children from her own house only three doors down the street.

> **'Suzanne turned up on her doorstep with a huge black eye. Despite her appearance her own mother turned her away'**

Suzanne, however, continued to stay regularly even though, according to her sister, Powell and McNeilly frequently bullied her. "It was not that she was scared of them, it's just that she would do anything for them. She pampered their every whim."

Michelle blamed their mother for not saving Suzanne from Powell's bullying shortly before her death. Michelle claimed that a month before her sister was murdered the teenager went to her mother's home after being beaten up by Powell. She was turned away.

She said: "If she had helped Suzanne she might be alive today. She is a heartless mother." She claimed Elizabeth Capper had told Suzanne that her boy friend would not allow it when her daughter begged to be allowed to stay.

Paul Barlow, 25, Miss Capper's fiancé said: "Suzanne turned up on her doorstep with a huge black eye and said she wanted to get away from the trouble she had been having. Yet despite her appearance her own mother turned her away. I believe that had she done something to help Suzanne, things might be very different today. As a parent myself I would find what Suzanne's mother did very hard to live with."

Mr Barlow met Leigh and Dudson at the time Suzanne was being held captive and tortured when they helped him repair his car. Both men later claimed they would have helped Suzanne if they had known what was going to happen to her.

Mr Barlow said: "If they were that sorry about Suzanne they could have told me there and then. The door would have been kicked down and I would have got Suzanne out.

"I did not think they were capable of such savagery. Now all I want is ten minutes with them in a back room."

Jackson drowsy on court video

A STAFF REPORTER

JURORS in Los Angeles have been shown a sluggish and almost incoherent Michael Jackson on a videotape made by lawyers just before his admission that he was addicted to pain-killing drugs.

The video was taken in Mexico City by lawyers for two would-be songwriters who claim that Jackson stole three of his songs from them: "Thriller", "The Girl is Mine" and "We are the World". Jackson, who seemed drowsy and paused for long periods on being questioned, said he had written or co-written each of the songs but could not remember why or when.

On another occasion he appeared to falter when asked to name the members of his former band, the Jackson Five, which comprised his brothers.

The videotaped sworn statement was taken by lawyers for the plaintiffs on November 10 and 11 in Mexico City. On November 12, Jackson ended his world tour and flew to Europe to seek treatment in a drug rehabilitation clinic.

Jackson, who returned to southern California last week, has been accused in a civil lawsuit of sexually molesting a 13-year-old boy last year. He has denied the sexual molestation charges and is contesting the copyright case.

Jackson's lawyers have said he was treated in a clinic in Europe for a month before reappearing in America. He had been due to give a deposition to the boy's lawyers in Mexico City, but left due to his addiction before they could take his sworn statement.

Jackson's lawyer, Howard Weitzman, had said the star was "barely able to function on an intellectual level" just before he began receiving treatment, and the singer's mother said in a television interview that she was told he had almost died from his addiction.

While Jackson appeared to be mumbling, and at times rambling away from the subject of the songwriters' copyright lawsuit, he was adamant that the songs were originals and did not come from the pens of the two plaintiffs, Robert Smith and Reynaud Jones. "I wouldn't cheat anybody out of credit," he said. "I'm an honest person."





Dear Drambuie, I'm appalled!

What are you playing at? Your campaign to get the public to drink this fine tipple with ice is totally mad. All this drinking it 'on the rocks' smacks of American liberalism to me. Not since the Chief of Amphibious Warfare suggested landing on Juno Beach with a battalion of windsurfers have I heard such a daft idea. Don't get me wrong. We have our fingers on the pulse down here. Sonic the squirrel is no stranger to this household. But to desecrate 248 years of tradition sets my Scottish blood (my wife's father was capped for Scotland at Curling) boiling.

Bonnie Prince Charlie won't be resting too peacefully, either. Was it not he who first took the secret recipe of aged malt whiskies, herbs and honey, and sped in his bonnie boat like a bird on the wing to the Mackinnons of Skye? There to enjoy the smooth, subtle flavours of Drambuie in the arms of his beloved Flora. The suggestion that ice would have any part to play in such a warm, bathetic scenario is laughable.

Don't assume I'm being blimpish over this. Marjorie and I have been drinking your Drambuie, alternating it with and without ice. In fact, we're enjoying some as I write.

True, ice does seem to bring out the flavour of the drink. The fine malts I particularly noted. But must tradition always play second fiddle to you Johnnies in marketing?

If the plan was to make the drink go further by watering down the Drambuie with ice, it's failed. My bottle is empty.

So, I say "pah!" to Drambuie on the rocks.

And I hope your campaign ends up there, too.

Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells, Rtd.



DRAMBUIE

هكذا من الأصل

Bottomley 'cut red tape' to find beds for sick Bosnians

■ Britain is to receive 16 further victims of the Bosnian conflict. An aid worker claims the Government could have acted sooner

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A LIFELINE was held out to 16 seriously ill victims of the Bosnian conflict yesterday when the Government agreed to cut red tape and allocate hospital beds, amid claims that it had been dragging its feet.

The Health Department announced that the group, from Tuzla and Mostar, will include at least six children and will probably arrive on Monday with an unknown number of dependents.

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, speaking on *The World at One* on Radio 4, claimed her department had "cut through some of the bureaucracy and some of the delay, because speed is of the essence".

The department denied there had been any delay in agreeing to the evacuation, having received the request on Tuesday and promised a reply by yesterday.

However, Sally Becker, the volunteer aid worker heading the operation, said she had been asking the Government for beds "for weeks".

Before hearing of the provision of the 16 beds, she told *GMTV*: "I have sent faxes direct to the Prime Minister, to his office, and all the various people they pass me on to, and it seems to me all they did was pass my request round and round. During that time people have been dying — especially children."

Four hospitals in the West Midlands are believed to be preparing to admit the 16 for conditions ranging from meningitis and heart defects to shrapnel wounds.

The evacuation followed a request on Tuesday to the Foreign Office from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.



Becker: said she asked for beds weeks ago

Britain has already taken 98 sick people from the former Yugoslavia, having been stung into action by the plight of Irma Hadzimuratovic, now six, from Sarajevo, who was badly injured in a mortar attack in which her mother was killed.

Irma, who required surgery for shrapnel wounds to her abdomen and back, together with treatment for bacterial meningitis, was flown to Britain in August on the orders of the Prime Minister.

She remains on a ventilator in the intensive care unit of The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, paralysed from the neck down because of severe neurological problems but alert and responsive.

In the same hospital is Belma Salaka, 3, who arrived with chronic meningitis and is now on a neurology ward requiring long-term physiotherapy and speech therapy. She arrived with her mother, Ziba, 34, and sister, Samira, 8.

Miss Becker, 33, dubbed the "Angel of Mostar" for her earlier relief work in the besieged Bosnian town, would be thrilled at the Government's decision, her spokesman, Mike Mendoza, said. "It is the first time the British Government has recognised what she is doing. Sally and the rest of the convoy will be coming back with them."

Mrs Bottomley said she was satisfied that these were appropriate patients to come to Britain for NHS treatment.

She said: "The suffering is appalling and that is why our primary effort must be in providing medical supplies and aid in former Yugoslavia, and we are the largest supplier in Bosnia."

Asked whether the patients coming here were those most likely to benefit, she replied: "This is the dilemma in terms of the clearances and approvals.

"Of course, it is important to act swiftly, but at the same time checks do need to be made to ensure that the patient who is coming is the most appropriate patient to move and that this is the right country to come to.

"I am satisfied that these are appropriate patients, children and adults, with very serious injuries and ones where the NHS will be able to provide help."

Family calls for truth as deportee is buried

BY KATE ALDERSON

POLITICIANS yesterday joined the family of Joy Gardner, the Jamaican woman who collapsed while being served with a deportation order, in renewing calls for the truth on how she died to be disclosed.

Mrs Gardner, 40, was buried at Enfield, north London, yesterday. She died in July, five days after police and a Home Office official went to her home in Hornsey, north London, to try to put her on a flight to Jamaica.

Three police officers have been suspended, but a report by the Police Complaints Authority has been delayed until post-mortem reports are received.

Addressing 200 mourners at the Pentecostal New Testament Church of God in Wood Green, north London, Bernie Grant, Labour MP for Tottenham, said: "Joy was cut down by the so-called forces of law and order ... cut down by a country that once dragged our ancestors from Africa in chains and now wants to send us home in chains because it no longer needs us."

Samuel Parris, a representative of the Jamaican High Commission, said: "The Jamaican government feels very strongly about this issue." Future action by his government was constrained by diplomatic protocol, he said, but it had "communicated with the authorities and requested the reports" on the death.

Herman Ouseley, the chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, reiterated his call for a public enquiry.

Car dealer jailed for pitchfork stabbing

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who waged a vendetta against neighbours who objected to him selling cars from his back garden was jailed yesterday for stabbing a man aged 80 in the head with a pitchfork.

Christopher Fulke-Greville upset elderly residents of Liberty Rise in Addlestone, Surrey, when he set up a used-car lot behind his home. Guildford Crown Court was told. He responded to their complaints by abusing them, displaying offensive signs and damaging their lawns and cars.

He attacked Henry Lloyd George with a pitchfork, inflicting a wound that needed 17 stitches.

Yesterday Fulke-Greville, 42, was jailed for six months. Judge Hull told him: "You used greatly excessive violence on a man of 80 who was almost twice your age. Violence in these circumstances and with these consequences is so serious only a custodial sentence can be justified."

After the three-day trial, residents of Liberty Rise and neighbouring Katherine Close expressed their fears that Fulke-Greville would return to take his revenge. Frederick Ferrari, one of his neighbours, said: "I was hoping he would get three years. The sentence is not long enough and he'll be at it again shortly.

"We wanted him out of the way but now he'll just carry on again stacking cars in the street and upsetting everybody."

Beach Boys on crest of a wave with Times top album



The Beach Boys' seminal album never reached number one in the sales charts

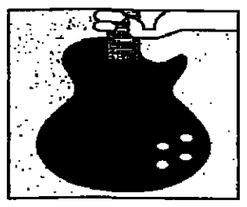
BY ANGELA MACKAY

THE Beach Boys' *Pet Sounds*, released in 1966, has been named best album of all time by a panel of experts enlisted by *The Times*. *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (1967) by the Beatles was second and Van Morrison's *Astral Weeks* (1968) claimed third place.

Of the top ten albums, published today in *The Times Magazine* (not available with this edition), seven were produced in the 1960s and all were released before the end of 1973. While this may say something about the average age of the panellists (about 41), it also demonstrates the electrifying effect this music had on a generation hungry for change.

The rules decreed that no band could feature more than twice in the list of the 100 Best Albums of All Time, of which numbers 26 to 100 have already appeared in the magazine. The Beatles' two were both in the top ten — *Revolver* (1966) at number seven in addition to *Sgt Pepper*. Some of the panel were disappointed that *Sgt Pepper* did not clinch the top spot.

In the mid-1960s, the Beach Boys and the Beatles were constantly trading places in the charts, particularly in America. *Pet Sounds* is an astonishing showcase of experimental studio techniques, sound effects and instruments. It is redolent of a carefree beach existence yet had a darkness that had been absent from previous work.





Pet Sounds, from 1966

The Beatles were influenced by *Pet Sounds* and had already started thinking about a concept album that would add depth to their early work. Guided by George Martin, their producer, the Fab Four's album notched up a number of firsts. *Sgt Pepper* was in the UK chart for 148 weeks, compared with *Pet Sounds* which managed only 39 weeks and did not get to number one.

Astral Weeks, on the other hand, never made the charts. This was the debut solo album of the Irish rocker Van Morrison.

Some of the panel were opposed to the ranking in the top ten. David Sinclair, rock critic of *The Times*, said the selection of *Sgt Pepper* was a knee-jerk vote. "I had rather thought we had seen the end of that being touted as the best of the Beatles' albums. *Revolver* is better."

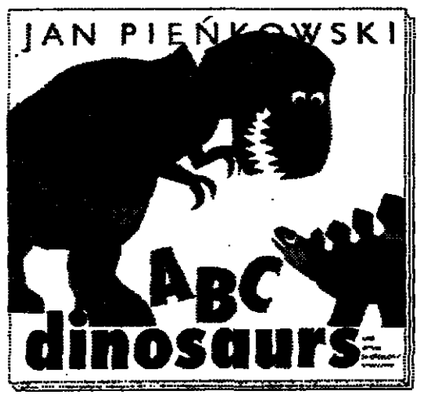
Although there was much disagreement about what albums should comprise the top ten or twenty, there was little disagreement about what acts should be included.

But what of the last twenty years? Only one album in the first fifteen was produced after 1980. Prince and the Revolution's *Purple Rain* (1984) which was number fifteen. Mr Sinclair said that the panel was hamstrung because only albums produced before 1992 could be considered.

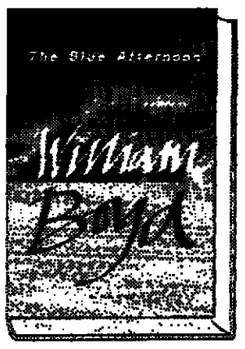
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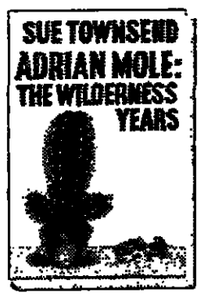
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Howard will amend right to silence in move to bolster Tory position as party of law and order

Child criminals to be locked up from age 10

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN as young as ten could be locked up under moves unveiled yesterday that are central to government efforts to regain the political initiative on law and order.

But ministers have diluted proposals for dealing with persistent young offenders by cutting the length of time they will be in custody from two years to one. Teenagers will be sent to secure training units for up to a year and ministers plan a pilot scheme of electronically tagging offenders.

A defendant's right to silence is to be modified and the police will give suspects two cautions that refusing to answer questions might count against them at their trial.

Anyone convicted of intimidating witnesses or members of a jury faces five years' jail under proposals in the Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill published yesterday. The Bill proposes action against juvenile criminals, bail bandits, trespassers, squatters and gives police in England and Wales greater powers to deal with suspected terrorists.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said the Bill attacked every aspect of crime and aimed at shifting the balance of justice in favour of the victim rather than the criminal. "I want to make it easier to catch, convict and punish the guilty", he said.

Mr Howard said his proposals should not be assessed on overall crime figures produced by the police as these were "notoriously unreliable".

Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, accused the Government of a "series of disconnected initiatives designed to grab a set of headlines". Labour will not oppose the Bill outright but is expected to attack the modification of the right to silence and plans to set up five secure units for persistent juvenile offenders aged between 12 and 14.

Penal reform groups and civil liberties groups criticised the proposals to amend the right to silence and jail more juveniles. They say the secure training units will be little more than "colleges of crime".

Harry Fletcher of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "The Bill is a collection of tried and failed counter-productive ideas."

According to penal reformers, the Bill represents a decisive shift away from the 'liberal' Home Office strategy of dealing with youth crime.

Mr Howard said: "Many communities suffer terribly from the activities of a handful of young hooligans who offend time and again."

His proposals include:

☐ **Custody for 10-13-year-olds:** Children convicted of serious offences such as rape and armed robbery, as well as murder and manslaughter, to be detained in local authority secure accommodation.

☐ **Secure Training Centres:** Five units for persistent offenders aged 12-14. Children there will have committed three or more offences for which adults can be jailed, and have breached supervision order.

☐ **Curfews:** Trials of curfew orders with electronic tagging.

☐ **DNA samples:** Police given power to keep DNA genetic fingerprint samples from anyone arrested for or convicted of recordable offence.

☐ **Right to silence:** Court to be allowed to draw inference from suspect's failure to answer police questions or refusal to give evidence in court.

☐ **Prisons:** Prison Officers Association and custody officers employed by private firms to be banned from industrial action. Prison escort duties to be contracted out. Government power to use ships or barges as jails.

☐ **Rave parties and trespass:** Police to be able to direct trespassers to leave land. Police to be allowed to turn back those trying to go to a rave party five miles from the site.

☐ **Bail:** No bail for those charged with murder, attempted murder, rape or attempted rape, or with a previous conviction for such an offence.

☐ **Child pornography:** Tougher penalties for possession of indecent photographs.

☐ **Terrorism:** Offence of possessing articles for terrorist purposes and collecting information for such purposes.

Anthony Lester, page 14
Leading article, page 15

PROPOSED INFORMATION

THE home secretary said that a police officer arresting suspects would warn that they could be questioned at the station and that failure to mention relevant information "may damage your case".

Once at the station, the caution could read: "I am going to put some questions to you. You are not obliged to answer them. But if you do not mention now something which you later use in your defence, the court may decide that your failure to mention it now strengthens the case against you.

"A record will be made of anything you say and it may be given in evidence if you are brought to trial."

ROBIN MAYES



Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, outlining the bills he is to introduce on criminal justice and the police

Police fear loss of local independence

BY OUR HOME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S senior police officers said yesterday that the Home Secretary's plans to reform the police threatened the political independence of the service. They criticised Michael Howard's £21 million plan to streamline police authorities and to set national objectives as undermining their ability to answer local concerns and tasks.

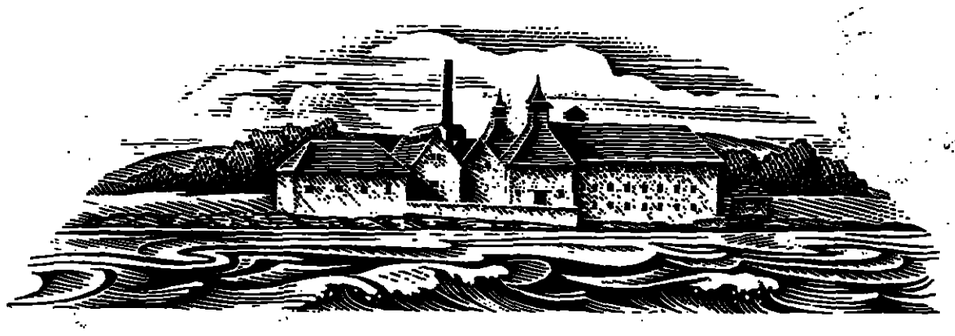
Local authority leaders said that the Bill was the start of a road to a national police force. "We fear policing will become more remote from the local community. The balance of power will be firmly in the Government's grasp."

Under yesterday's Police and Magistrates Courts Bill, police authorities will be cut down to 16 members, with five plus the chairman appointed by the Home Secretary. The Bill will allow national objectives to be set for police and private-sector sponsorship of police activities. Fixed-term contracts and performance-related pay will be introduced for chief constables, together with simplified procedures for amalgamating forces.

John Smith, president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said that under the Bill the chief constable's position would be significantly weakened. "His ability to perform independently of any politicial influence will be lessened."

Mr Howard said that he had no intention of being "chief constable of Great Britain". He said the five centrally appointed members of police authorities would be local people who would be chosen for the local contribution they could make. "I am confident that the selection procedures to be announced will allay any lingering anxieties."

LAPHROAIG



FAR AND AWAY THE MOST DISTINCTIVE MALT WHISKY.



PEAT SMOKE, SOFT RAIN AND SEA AIR.
WOVEN TOGETHER IN SOME MYSTERIOUS ALCHEMY.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Baby error at hospital

A mother has demanded an enquiry after she was given the wrong baby to feed at the Royal Cornwall Hospital (Treliske) in Truro. Joanna Frew, 27, realised that the child she was about to feed for only the third time was not her son Connor because his hair was too fair.

Mrs Frew, from Heamoor, Cornwall, has been told that the nurse responsible for the mix-up has been reprimanded. A spokesman for the hospital emphasised that the mix-up could not have gone undetected because all babies wore two name-tags.

Murder charge

Mohammed Amine Akanour, 24, a student of no fixed address, appeared in court accused of killing Dr Barry Taylor, 45, a lecturer, and his wife, Janet, 46, a primary school teacher. He was remanded in custody until December 23 by Portsmouth magistrates. There was no application for bail.

Girls attacked

A group of 14- and 15-year-olds from the Kesteven and Grantham Girls School, Lincolnshire, have claimed they were sexually attacked by a gang of boys in Hampton Court maze.

Fireman's lift

A fire engine has been flown to the island of Caldy off Wales in case the monks who live there have to fight a blaze.

Ninth life

A cat found in a sealed container from Holland will be put down unless £700 is raised to pay for its quarantine.

Chaplin sale

Charlie Chaplin's bowler hat and cane have been sold for £55,000 at Christie's to an anonymous British collector.

Unwary motorists taken for a ride

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

MOTORISTS are paying hundreds of pounds too much for unnecessary repair work that is also too expensive.

Labour in some garages is twice that in others. One London garage charges £54 an hour compared with £25 in the Midlands.

Fleet Management Services, one of Britain's biggest fleet companies, said yesterday that garages regularly carried out work that was neither requested nor needed. In one case a driver was blamed for the complete failure of his car engine and given a bill for £1,800. When a maintenance team from Fleet Management checked the car, they found a stress fracture had caused the problem.

Another garage wanted to strip an engine to find a suspected oil leak at a cost of £1,500. Fleet Management discovered that there was nothing wrong with the car.

Derick Perkins, Fleet Management's director of maintenance control, said yesterday: "They are two extreme examples where companies would have paid dearly if they had just allowed the garage to get on with things.

"The trouble is that most motorists do not question things that are done, accept what they are told and simply pay up. Apart from big items, there is the odd £5 here and there on the bill which adds up to a great deal of profit for garages and which motorists must be aware of."

A Midlands garage targeted women company car drivers this month with a special £60 servicing offer. One woman found the garage quoted an extra £180 for replacement of worn brake parts, but Fleet Management's team said they would last a further 12,000 miles.

Even when servicing is properly carried out, thousands of motorists are paying vastly different labour costs. Fleet Management says that charges in Scotland may be no more than £30 an hour, but in London the rate would be between £45 and £50.

Mr Perkins said that motorists should shop around and always question every item on their bills. "Our survey shows that inessential repairs are the exception rather than the rule. However, when the exception could cost hundreds, or even thousands of pounds, it pays to be vigilant."

Fakes fetch £60,000

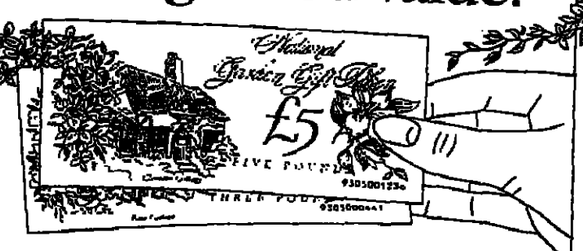
A COLLECTION of 160 Victorian stamps that date from the biggest fraud ever perpetrated against the Post Office sold for £60,400 at Sotheby's in London yesterday. It went to an enthusiast bidding by telephone from Switzerland.

The collection was compiled by Dr Ian Ray, 48, a nuclear physicist, who took ten years to piece the story of the Great Stock Exchange forgery of 1872 together. He said afterwards: "It is the greatest untold fraud story of Victorian England. It brought the culprits £50-£60 every day for six years. This was bigger than the Great Train Robbery."

Staff at the Stock Exchange swapped genuine stamps for fakes and used the real ones for currency. The fraud only came to light in 1898 when enthusiasts noticed that some had a coarser design, malformed corner letters and no water mark. An 18-year police investigation failed to pin the blame on any of the suspects.

Freddie Mercury's stamp collection appeared in the same auction and made £3,220 to support an Aids charity. The singer died in 1991.

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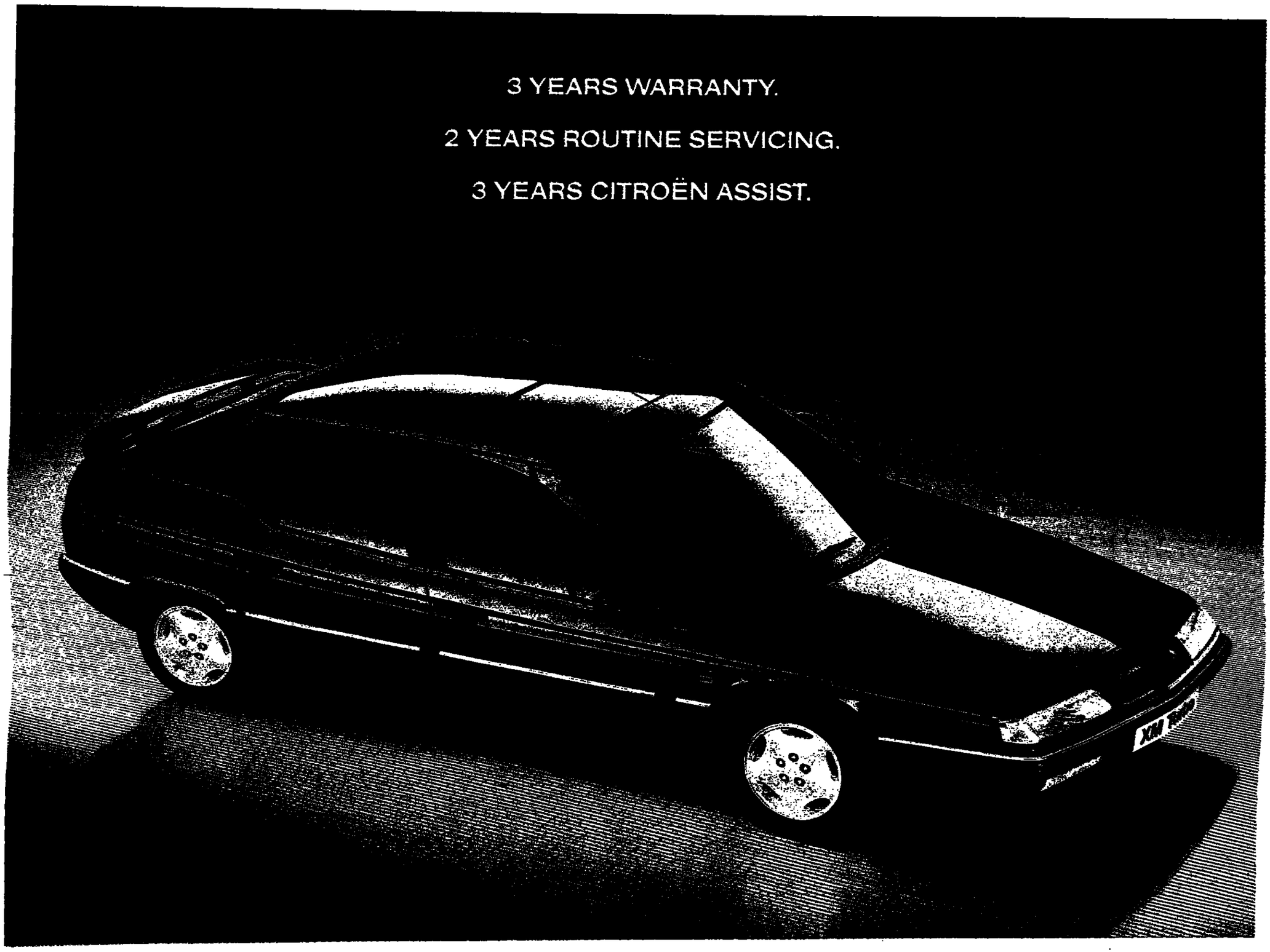
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Dying Hendrix drowned in red wine, says doctor

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

JIMI Hendrix had been dead "for hours rather than minutes" when he was admitted to hospital, according to the doctor who tried to revive him.

Dr John Bannister has spoken about his struggle to save the life of the guitarist, who had "drowned in red wine". His evidence will be crucial to Scotland Yard's new enquiry into the musician's death in London.

Hendrix's girl friend, Monika Danneman, has always maintained that he was still breathing and had a normal pulse when she telephoned for an ambulance. Her account appears to contrast with that of Dr Bannister, now 50, who was surgical registrar at St Mary Abbots hospital, Kensington, when Hendrix was admitted on September 18, 1970.

The Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, is considering whether to quash a coroner's open verdict and order a new inquest.

Dr Bannister told *The Times* that Hendrix "had been dead for some time, without a doubt, hours rather than minutes. He didn't have any pulse. The inside of his mouth and mucus membranes were black because he had been dead for some time. He had had no circulation at all through his tissues at any time immediately prior to coming to the hospital."

The doctor, who graduated in Sydney in 1964 and has since returned to Australia, described the "tragic scene" as he and other medical staff made every effort to revive Hendrix.

He expressed surprise that accounts of the musician's death, including the pathologist's inquest report, have failed to mention that the musician had been drinking "masses" of red wine.



Hendrix had swallowed barbiturates and wine

It was "coming out of his nose and out of his mouth. It was horrific. The whole scene is very vivid because you don't often see people who have drowned in their own red wine," Dr Bannister said.

Hendrix had been taken by ambulance from Miss Danneman's flat close by in Notting Hill, and was taken on a trolley to a large room in the casualty department.

"There was red wine all over him," Dr Bannister said. "I think that he was naked but he had something around him — whether it was a towel or a jumper — around his neck. That was saturated in red wine. His hair was matted.

"He was completely cold. I personally think he probably died a long time before. He was cold and he was blue. He had all the parameters of somebody who has been dead for some time.

"We worked on him for about half an hour without any response at all. There was a medical registrar, myself, nursing staff and I think one other doctor. I didn't even know who Jimi Hendrix was. It's tragic that such a bloke died in those circumstances."

The medical staff used an 18-inch metal sucker to try to clear Hendrix's airway but "it would just fill up with red wine from his stomach". A heart monitor did not register.

The pathologist's report showed evidence of barbiturates in Hendrix's liver. Dr Bannister said he believed the musician had vomited red wine after taking tablets. At the same time, because he was either too sleepy or too influenced by the pills, he had inhaled.

"No one has ever talked to me about it," Dr Bannister said. "It's not the sort of death you see or want to see very often."

Dr Bannister has since been removed from the medical register in Australia, over an "accounting error".

Miss Danneman insisted yesterday that Hendrix "was still alive in the ambulance car when we got him to the hospital. He died some time later in the hospital."

Another former Hendrix girl friend, Kathy Etchingham, is believed to be behind the request for a new inquest.

Sailors follow Shackleton's wake







Victoria Brown and Trevor Potts aim to repeat the epic rescue voyage of Sir Ernest Shackleton, above right

BY ALAN HAMILTON

FOUR adventurers with a taste for extreme danger and discomfort have set off for the bottom of the world to recreate one of the most famous small-boat rescues in maritime history.

The party, which includes a woman and is led by Trevor Potts, 43, from Morpeth, Northumberland, plan to repeat the epic feat of Sir Ernest Shackleton in 1916. The polar explorer and five companions sailed 800 miles in a 23ft whaler across the bitter and tempestuous Southern Ocean to seek help after his ship *Endeavour* had been crushed by the Antarctic pack ice.

Mr Potts and his party have had a close replica of the whaler built by a traditional boat builder in South Shields. They believe their boat, naturally named *Sir Ernest Shackleton*, to be much stronger than the original, the *James Caird*. But they will still be at the mercy of unpredictable and possibly ferocious weather.

Mr Potts is watersports development officer for Tyne and Wear. His companions are Victoria Brown, 43, manager of a watersports centre in Morpeth; Chris Smith, 41, a mountaineer from Betws-y-Coed, Gwynedd; and Robert Egelstaff, 44, an outdoor education teacher, also from North Wales. All are experienced sailors, but the angry seas of Antarctica will be a new experience.

Climbers warned of winter peril

BY BILL FROST

MOUNTAIN rescue centres gave a warning to climbers yesterday of the hazards of unpredictable weather after a week in which four people died in blizzard conditions.

Veteran and inexperienced mountaineers alike were told to recognise their limitations and adhere to "common sense guidelines"; under no circumstances were they to attempt a climb without an authoritative local weather forecast.

This week a woman climber died after getting into difficulties on Cairn Gorm in the Grampian range. On Wednesday the bodies of two Parachute Regiment soldiers were found in the western Highlands, apparently having been caught in an avalanche.

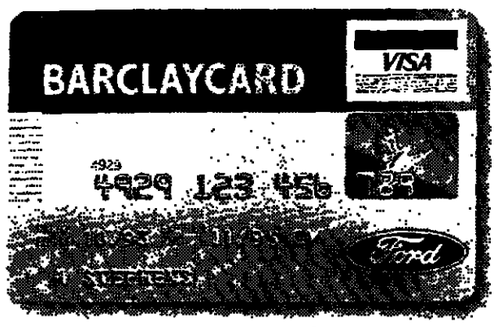
On Thursday rescue teams in Snowdonia found the body of a mountain biker who had become separated from his companions during a blizzard.

Derek Walker, of the British Mountaineering Council, said there would always be a few rank amateurs who climbed beyond their ability. Everyone should stick to "common sense guidelines", he said. "Climbers should know their own limitations, they should have a detailed and recent weather forecast for the area and never underestimate the perils of winter. In summer the mountain may be easy but don't go back in winter expecting it to be as friendly or predictable."

Martin Burrows-Smith, who has led many rescues in the Cairngorms, echoed the concern over inexperienced climbers trying to cope in winter. "These people have no conception of how difficult and dangerous the mountain can be. Once they do begin to get some idea of the risk, panic can set in."

"The most important message I would give is: never underestimate winter in the mountains. Never attempt a climb without proper equipment — an ice axe, crampons and suitable warm clothing.

"Climb in daylight and remember how quickly the light fades in winter. Always let someone know where you are going and what time you are planning to return."



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Accountants move into the close

Cathedrals to learn ways of Mammon

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CATHEDRALS, which previously answered only to God, could soon become accountable to man and Mammon, not to mention accountants.

For centuries it has gone largely unnoticed that cathedrals, many of which have property and treasures worth millions, need show only income-producing investments in their balance sheets.

But as more cathedrals have started charging for entry, church leaders have begun asking questions about accountancy procedures. The wide divergence in practice and method has led to calls for uniform accounting systems and a working party has been set up.

Dr Brandon Jackson, Dean of Lincoln, said cathedral accounting was a disgrace. "There is a lot of juggling of the books. There is this false notion that if you are Christian you must not create any trouble and you sweep things under the carpet. It is a scandal to God that we are behaving like this. We should open the books, see what is wrong and put it right.

"Things are improving. Speaking generally, deans and chapters are taking finances more seriously." But, quoting the prophet Haggai, he said asking worshippers to give money to cathedrals was too often like asking them "to put their wages into a bag with holes in it".

The working party was established on the recommendation of the Cathedrals Commission, which was set up last year to examine the future role of cathedrals in Church and nation. The members met for the first time this week and will report next year.

Many are restricted by medieval statutes, which give detailed instructions for feeding and regulating the lives of monks but do not advise on how to account for collapsing spires or woodworm in pews and crumbling stonework. It would be difficult to value a building such as St Paul's in London and all its treasures, but it is possible that the capital value of some of its properties, such as the homes of the dean and chapter, may one day appear in the books. Lincoln listed the value of its houses in the close for the first time this year.

The working party, which is sponsored by the Institute of Chartered Accountants, is chaired by Peter Burnham, of the accountant Coopers & Lybrand. He emphasised that there had been no suggestion that canons were tampering with accounts.

Referring to the frequent financial appeals launched by cathedrals, he said: "If the cathedral is sitting on a large amount of land in the close and is short of cash, is it their job to preserve for the future or realise for the present?"

At Your Service, Weekend, page 10

'Extinct' tree still alive after 400 years

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

BOTANISTS have confirmed the discovery of a tree growing in the wild in Britain which was thought to exist only in parks and botanic gardens.

The true service tree (*Sorbus domestica*) is mentioned in books about British plants only because of one specimen, which grew until the mid-19th century in the Wyre Forest in Hereford and Worcester.

Now small clusters of the trees, thought to be more than 400 years old, have been found in two places on coastal cliffs a dozen miles from Cardiff. The Botanical Society of the British Isles has added the tree to the list of native British plants.

An amateur naturalist, Marc Hampton, first spotted the trees about 10 years ago. "Many scientists were sceptical that the trees could be the same species as the Wyre Forest tree, which was assumed to have been introduced from abroad," he said.

The true service tree has small pear-like fruit, known as "services" or "sorbs", which can be eaten when soft and ripe. But the trees growing on the Welsh cliff-face are too stunted by exposure to the wind to bear fruit.



The true service tree of 19th-century Wyre Forest

Magazine is right up TV fans' street

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

FANS of British television's most popular programme, Granada's *Coronation Street*, are to be rewarded with a magazine devoted entirely to the 33-year-old soap opera.

Coronation Street Magazine will be launched with a print run of 150,000. The monthly is being produced in close co-operation with the programme's scriptwriters, and will publish background details to all the main storylines as they transpire. It will be accompanied by occasional one-off books based on the show's leading characters, starting in spring with *Mike Baldwin's Guide to Business* and *Ken Barlow's Guide to Romance*.

With audiences regularly reaching 20 million, the programme, screened three times a week, is Britain's longest-running soap.

Newsstand Publications, which is publishing the magazine under licence from Granada Studios, makers of the soap, is clearly hoping to cash in on the huge marketing potential of soap opera culture in Britain. While soap magazines and "fanzines" sell millions of copies in the United States, the phenomenon has been slow to develop in this country, despite the huge following of programmes such as *EastEnders*, *Brookside*, *Neighbours* and *Home and Away*.

The magazine will also give credence to an emerging, rather curious sociological phenomenon, in which television viewers respond to fictional characters in soap operas as if they were real people.

Brian Clarke, editor of the magazine, said that Granada received thousands of letters of congratulation or condolence every time there was a birth, marriage or death in the story.

"We will be treating the characters on the Street as if they were real people. There will not be much about the actors' private lives," he said.

Mr Clarke is hoping to build on the success of Britain's only other mass circulation soap magazine, *Inside Soap*, launched by Attic Futura last year, which covers all the main television programmes in the genre and has a circulation of 63,000.

Coronation Street Magazine, which is aiming for a steady circulation of 60,000, will also publish articles by the actors and interviews with them about their characters.

Credo

Religious festival has political base

Hyam Maccoby

On Wednesday evening, eight candles were lit in the menorah, and thereby the last day of the eight-day Jewish festival of Hanukkah (Dedication) was celebrated. Hanukkah is a minor festival. It celebrates a deliverance from a threatened Hellenistic suppression of the Jewish religion and the recovery of Jewish religious and political independence through the brave resistance of Judas Maccabaeus. It On a smaller scale than the Exodus, Hanukkah stresses a basic Jewish theme: the intimate connection between religion and politics.

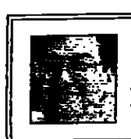
As a religion of liberation, Judaism is not indifferent to national independence, which it regards as a spiritual requirement. The Torah provides the constitution of a state and a model of how a small-scale polity can be organised on principles of justice, mercy and morality. To emphasise the spiritual meaning of liberation, the rabbis ruled that the chief ceremony of Hanukkah should commemorate the rededication of the Temple, rather than the victory of the Hasmonaens. The miracle of the menorah came to symbolise the renewal of the light of Judaism; but it was not forgotten that the victory of a tiny army over the might of the Syrian-Greeks was also a God-given miracle. The idealism of the Hasmoneans became dimmed, but the office of political leader was prized as essential to the implementation of spiritual ideals. The kings of the biblical period were admonished by the prophets and often fell short of the ideal; yet in Judaism, the hoped-for Messiah is primarily not a prophet, but a human, fallible king.

Though occurring at the same season as Christmas, Hanukkah is very different. Christmas is celebrated by Christians as the birth of their Saviour and is thus of central importance: Hanukkah commemorates a particular episode for which a particular thanksgiving is offered.

Yet is it mere coincidence that these two festivals occur at the same time of year? Scholars have suggested there is a pagan background to both. The birth of the god Sol Invictus was celebrated, especially by adherents of Mithras, on December 25 and the date of the first day of Hanukkah, Kislev 25, was the feast-day of Dionysus. Some have attempted to establish that December 25 and Kislev 25 at one time were the same day at some stage in the development of the calendar.

In the case of Hanukkah, there is a very obvious explanation. "At the same time, on the same day on which the heathen profaned it, on that very day it was consecrated with songs and harps and lutes with cymbals" (I Maccabees, 4:5). When Antiochus had dedicated the Jewish Temple to Zeus Olympius, he chose the day of the Feast of Dionysus; so Judas Maccabaeus, when he re-dedicated the Temple, chose the anniversary of the defilement to emphasise the brilliance of his victory.

☐ *Hyam Maccoby teaches at the Leo Baeck College, London.*



KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

PCA qualifier

THE qualification tournament for the Professional Chess Association World Championship title inaugurated by The Times Championship match between Kasparov and Short starts in Groningen, Holland, tomorrow. The line-up includes Vishy Anand (India), Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), Alexei Shirov (Latvia) and Michael Adams, the only Englishman in the top 15.

Reader's game

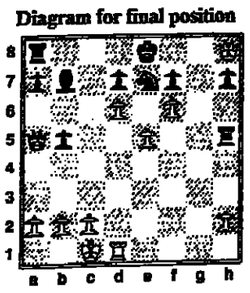
The following game, replete with ingenious sacrifices, was played in a club match between the RAC and Oxford & Cambridge. The winner deserves great credit for a sustained attack which involved the sacrifice of a rook, two pieces and two pawns.

White: Peter Marsh
Black: Stuart White
RAC v Oxford & Cambridge, December 1993

King's Gambit

1	e4	e5
2	Nc3	Bc5
3	f4	Bxg1
4	Rxg1	exd4
5	d4	g5
6	Bc4	c6
7	Qf3	Qe7
8	Bxd4	gxd4
9	0-0-0	b5
10	Bxb5	cxb5
11	e5	Nc6
12	Nd5	Qd8
13	g3	Bb7
14	gxd4	Qe5
15	Rxg8+	Rxg8
16	Nf6+	Ke7
17	d5	Rg7
18	Nh5	Rg6
19	d6+	Kf8
20	f5	Rh6
21	Qg4	Rxh5
22	f6	Ne7
23	Qg7+	Ke8
24	Qh8+	Black resigns

Diagram for final position



Readers are invited to continue submitting their own games for possible publication in this column. Games should be sent to me c/o Keene on Chess, *The Times*, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN.

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Defiant BBC to screen Mao film

■ The forthcoming programme has cast a new shadow over Sino-British relations. The corporation insists that the film reveals the brutal truth about Mao's regime

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

CHINA hinted darkly yesterday that it would take unspecified action if the BBC went ahead and broadcast a programme depicting Mao Tse-tung as a sex-crazed tyrant.

The Chinese embassy in London said the corporation was "fully aware of the consequences" if the BBC2 *Timewatch* programme was broadcast on Monday. A spokesman refused to say whether pressure may be increased on James Miles, the BBC's Peking correspondent. It is believed that Mr Miles has been called to a second meeting at the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Peking.

The BBC insisted yesterday that it would not bow to the heavy Chinese pressure to withdraw the programme, which has cast a new pall over Sino-British relations at a fraught time. Proposals by Chris Patten, the Hong Kong Governor, for limited democracy in the colony have all but frozen ties with Peking.

The programme, "Chairman Mao — The Untold Story", marks the centenary this month of Mao's birth and claims that the Chairman had a penchant for group sex with young girls, as well as a string of longer-term mistresses.

The Chinese embassy accused the BBC yesterday of hostility towards China and using "despicable means to sling mud" at Mao. Last month, China asked the Foreign Office to censor the programme, but was given short shrift. "We emphasised that the BBC is editorially independent and they would have to take the matter up with the BBC," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

"This documentary is a pure slander on Chairman Mao," a Chinese embassy spokesman said. The BBC said in a statement, however, that the film reveals "the true nature of Mao Tse-tung's tyrannical and brutal rule over China".

☐ **Hong Kong:** Residents here back Mr Patten over his democratic reform plans by a margin of nearly two to one, although the level of support would drop if talks with Peking were not resumed, according to a University of Hong Kong survey. *(Reuter)*

'Capitalist roaders' cash in with centennial kitsch

BY JAMES PRINGLE



The Mao Tse-tung cult is generating plenty of souvenirs but no grand celebrations 100 years after his birth

CALENDARS bearing his picture are strung across stationers' stores in southern China alongside studies of flowers and scantily-clad women. Bus and taxi drivers keep talismans with cameo portraits of the familiar features, as a slim, intense young man or in his well-rounded mature years, hanging from their rear-view windows.

As the centenary of his birth approaches on December 26, Mao Tse-tung is gone but not quite forgotten in the state, the People's Republic of China, that he proclaimed on October 1, 1949, from the Tiananmen Gate in Peking with the words: "Today, the Chinese people have stood up."

Though Peking is preparing for the big day with commentaries on Mao, no grand celebration is planned in his native south for the birth of a man who, under the watchword "To rebel is justified", launched the disastrous Cultural Revolution in 1966, mobilising millions of youthful Red Guards to "bombard the headquarters" and "sweep away ghosts and monsters" like Liu Shaoqi, the head of state who died pitifully in dentention, and Deng Xiaoping, the "No. 2 person in authority taking the capitalist road", who was thrown into the political wilderness.

"Some groups of educated people will meet to discuss Mao's ideas, and his contribution to China," said Freddy Wang, a Hunan provincial official. "No marches or mass meetings are planned."

Most of the Mao statues are gone now from China. But in Shaoshan, his birthplace, a bronze figure was recently raised and dozens of entrepreneurs — ironically Mao would have called them "capitalist roaders" — man stalls selling tacky souvenirs such as Mao watches, pens, playing cards and T-shirts featuring the late Chairman's chubby features. There is even a plastic Mao yo-yo on which the rotund face of the man who inspired the revolutionary ballad "Sailing the seas depends on the helmsman" bobs endlessly up and down. The craze for "Maomorabilia" among a generation rushing to make money while the boom lasts, or before a political reaction sets in, is likely to be only a fad. But among those who are missing out on the rush to capitalist values there is a genuine nostalgia for the man who restored China's honour after a century and a half of foreign exploitation and set the country on the "socialist road".

The son of a prosperous peasant, Mao was one of the founders of the Chinese Communist Party in Shanghai — now again a booming capitalist city — in July 1921. For the first years of his rule, until 1957, a period now called a "Golden Age", it seemed China had indeed achieved a rebirth as a wave of socialist construction and new ideas and ideals swept an ancient land long plagued by foreign domination. But then came the "100 flowers campaign", during which intellectuals invited to criticise the regime were persecuted, and the disastrous Great Leap Forward, a misguided rush to backyard industrialisation that led to famines in which up to 30 million died. Still, the present leaders, who do not want the party's legitimacy questioned, cannot quite bring themselves to denounce Mao, and Mr Deng has said the late Chairman was 70 per cent correct, 30 per cent wrong.

Mao often expressed the fear that capitalism would return to China, and it was Mr Deng, in the end, who dismantled his creation and has ushered in, since his last rehabilitation in 1978, the "socialist market economy" that improved the lives of many of China's 1.17 billion people but produced a less idealistic and vastly different country to that envisaged by the Great Helmsman.

China is now a country of hi-tech industry, unstable stock markets, burgeoning foreign investment, karaoke bars, cellular phones, discos, beggars, prostitutes and joint venture shopping palaces such as the Sakura, packed with consumer goods.

In all of this there is not much room for Mao, though the party retains its unchallenged power since the suppression of the pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square in June 1989. As one Peking resident said: "People have no interest in ideology, only in getting rich while they can."

Leading article, page 15

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Navajos to decide on white-free tribal name

BY BEN MACINTYRE

SOME three centuries after Europeans brought death and destruction to American Indians, the Navajo Nation, the largest tribe in the United States, may soon change its name, which tribal historians insist is another part of the white man's legacy.

The word Navajo is thought to derive from the Spanish *navaja* (razor, clasp knife), a derogatory term apparently coined by 17th-century Spanish missionaries. The 200,000-member tribe is currently debating whether to go back to the name Diné, which means "the people of the Earth" in Athapscan, the broad name that is given to North American Indian languages.

"We the people have always called ourselves Diné in our prayers and our story-telling, even our ancient legends," said President Peterson Zah, chief of the Navajo Nation. The Navajo tribal council discussed the official name change last week, which some Navajos regard as an important step towards reclaiming their cultural heritage. The council can either change the name itself, or put the issue to a referendum.

Polls suggest that at least 80 per cent of the tribe favour the change. Some etymologists trace the name Navajo to the Spanish word and its pejorative overtones of savage or warlike behaviour.

A name change is likely to be confusing for tourists, who provide much of the tribe's revenue, costly and time-consuming. Some Navajos also argue that with alcoholism, poverty and unemployment rampant in the reservation, semantics is the least of the tribe's problems.

Americans fail to take dollar at face value

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

GEORGE Washington, the father of his country whose face adorns the American $1 bill, has not been looking his old self recently. His hairline, never prominent, seems to have slipped further and there is an unfamiliar whitish splodge under his right eye. He is pallid and there is the hint of a third chin. In short, America's first president and the symbol of the US currency, is looking distinctly raddled.

Throughout America's East Coast consumers and retailers have been scrutinising their $1 bills and noticing other slight changes. Minute letter combinations that usually appear on the notes have disappeared; a new one has appeared on the reverse, just after the words "In God We Trust".

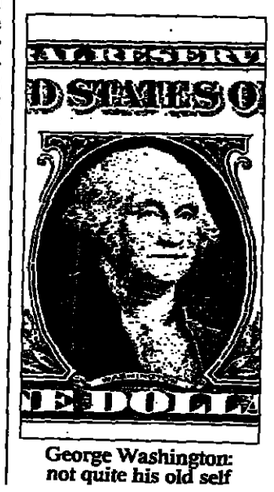
Trusting to their own eyesight rather than the Almighty, thousands of Americans have naturally assumed that the bills are fakes, prompting unfounded fears of a massive currency scam.

The US Secret Service, the government agency responsible for protecting the currency, has been deluged with calls, while shopkeepers in New York and Miami have been refusing to accept the odd-looking bills. Two hundred million new notes are already in circulation, and the embarrassed US Treasury Department has launched a damage-limitation campaign to try to reassure consumers that although the bills "look slightly different" they are not conterfeits but the result of a new printing process.

The bills have been in circulation in eastern America since June 1992 but the tiny changes did not penetrate public perception until about six weeks ago. Since then no amount of official reassurance has been able to fend off a full-scale public panic.

The New York office of the Secret Service reports "a massive amount of enquiries, hundreds upon hundreds of calls" from people convinced they have been passed duds. "The phones have been ringing off the hook," said James Kaiser, the Secret Service spokesman, whose message to the public is: "If they see those new features and there are no other deviations they can assume the notes are genuine."

Washington's pale mien and dwindling thatch are the result of a new printing technique that triples the output of notes but reproduces less fine detail. The missing numbers and the additional one on the reverse are technical changes the Treasury announced in June 1992.



George Washington: not quite his old self

Woman left 'penniless' by £4m divorce settlement

FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT

An American businessman in a British prison has been ordered to pay more than $6 million (£4 million) to his former wife by a Colorado court in a divorce settlement that should make her wealthy forever but will actually leave her penniless, according to the woman's lawyers.

John Dick was ordered to pay his former wife, Elisabeth, $6,378,624.53 by Denver District Judge John Coughlin, but her lawyers say the money will come in the form of dubious promissory notes that are not due to be paid until 1996. The Dicks' complicated divorce has been filed in both California and Colorado since the couple owns property in both states. Mr Dick has been held in prison on Jersey since last month for failing to pay his ex-wife about $3 million in temporary maintenance ordered by a California judge.

Mr Dick's estate is worth an estimated $21.5 million, and since the couple's six-year marriage broke up in 1988 he has lived in a vast property on Jersey. The Denver businessman was once worth up to $1.2 billion, according to some estimates. Mrs Dick's lawyers say Mr Dick is guilty of an elaborate scheme to conceal his assets in order to avoid paying anything to his former spouse.

Mr Dick was also ordered to pay $10,000 a month in permanent alimony, but the Colorado judge's ruling "leaves Mrs Dick on the street with no money, no clothes, nothing" said Larry Hami, her lawyer.

In fact Mrs Dick lives in the 25-room home the couple once shared in Cherry Hills, Denver, which is worth an estimated $1.7 million. But everything is relative.

☐ **Melbourne:** A woman who spent $2.3 million (£1 million) in seven days after a bank wrongly deposited the money in her husband's business account must stand trial for theft, a court here has ruled. In December 1992 a bank deposited $2.3 million instead of $2,300 in the account of Teresa Prudzinski's husband at another bank. Mrs Prudzinski, a 42-year-old accountant, bought two Melbourne properties, paid off credit cards and established investments. She told police: "I had an expectation of an inheritance".

هكذا من الأصل

Sticking points in Palestinian administration deal for Jericho threaten to encourage hardliners

Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip 'delayed for weeks'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL and the Palestine Liberation Organisation are unlikely to resolve their differences on the "Gaza-Jericho first" peace plan by the new deadline set for next week, and an agreement could be postponed until the new year.

Four days after the transfer of power was supposed to begin in the occupied territories, officials from both sides concede that they are no nearer to reaching a compromise on several outstanding issues over the size and scope of a Palestinian administration in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, has hinted that it could take three weeks to reach a deal with Yassir Arafat, the PLO chairman, even though the two leaders said on Sunday that they hoped to resolve their differences within ten days. Reports in Israel suggested yesterday that January 6 has been set as a new target date for agreement. Israel insists that a delay of a few days is a small price to pay for a clear and unambiguous agreement between the two former enemies. However, a second delay will undoubtedly give encouragement to militant Arabs and Jews, who have campaigned, often violently, to prove that the deal is unworkable.

The most contentious issues remain the size of the autonomous area around Jericho and who will control the frontier crossings from Jordan into the West Bank and from Egypt into Gaza. Under the declaration of principles signed in Washington on September 13, Israel is supposed to remain in control of "external security", but the agreement also stipulates "co-ordination between both parties" regarding the frontiers.

While such ambiguous language was hailed at the time as a diplomatic coup enabling both sides to sign their first peace accord, the document has since come under increasing criticism for its vagueness. Its flaws were likened by one Israeli commentator to the diplomatic equivalent of "Swiss cheese", which looks good but is full of holes.

Israel has hinted that it would be prepared to increase the size of the Jericho area under Palestinian control, but is adamant that it must retain control over who and what crosses into the West Bank and Gaza. Mr Arafat has repeatedly stated that Palestinians must be given control of their borders.

According to an opinion poll published by the *Maariv* newspaper yesterday, 54 per cent of Israelis believe that Israel and the PLO will eventually agree on the details of the "Gaza-Jericho first" transfer of power. Although 54 per cent criticised Mr Rabin's handling in the negotiations, 64 per cent said that the Israeli leader could finalise a deal in spite of opposition from militant Jewish settlers.

However, Mr Arafat does not seem able to match that level of public confidence among the two million Palestinians in the occupied territories who have grown frustrated at the delays, angered at the continued violence and disillusioned with the PLO chairman's high-handed leadership style.

Support among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza for the agreement with Israel has dropped from 65 per cent in mid-September to 42 per cent now, according to a survey conducted by the Center for Palestine Research and Studies conducted a week ago. Said Kanaan, the head of the center, predicted that attitudes "could change tomorrow if there was [an Israeli] withdrawal".

☐ **Soldier guilty:** An Israeli policeman has been found guilty of pouring turpentine onto a Palestinian and setting him alight during a border check. Sentence has not yet been passed. *(AFP)*



A Jewish Canadian, claiming his right to pray in the Hebron market yesterday, being confronted by an Israeli soldier as Palestinians look on

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mitterrand issues first rebuke for Balladur

Paris: President Mitterrand issued his first public rebuke to the Gaullist-led government yesterday as half of France's state school teachers went on a one-day strike against a surprise law that weakens the 143-year-old division between church and state schools (Charles Bremner writes).

The president said he was "surprised, offended and shocked" at the emergency procedures used to rush the controversial law through the senate. "This is a typical example of how not to do things," he said. Earlier this year, Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist Prime Minister, agreed to suspend the bill because of opposition from M Mitterrand and the teachers and signs that it would restart the "school wars" that have periodically plagued French education.

Craxi denial

Milan: Bettino Craxi, a former Prime Minister and long-time leader of Italy's Socialist Party, said the financing of the country's political parties had always been corrupt, but he denied taking bribes. *(Reuter)*

Dawkins goes

Canberra: John Dawkins, 46, the Australian Treasurer and one of the closest allies of the Prime Minister, Paul Keating, has resigned, saying he wanted to put more emphasis on family life. *(Reuter)*

Talks offer

Bonn: In a statement here, refugee leaders of Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front have offered the army-backed government specific conditions for starting peace talks. *(AFP)*

Officer on trial

Koblenz: A 71-year-old former Germany army lieutenant has gone on trial charged with ordering the murder 15 women and children at a farm near Naples in the Second World War. *(AP)*

£338m gift

Washington: Walter Annenberg, 85, former American ambassador to Britain, donated £338 million to groups working for classroom reforms because of American school violence.

Announcer dies

Paris: Pierre Holmes, 81, the voice of Free France on the BBC during the Second World War, has died at his home near Avignon. His broadcasts often contained coded messages for the Resistance.

Wedding belle

Paris: Donald Trump, the American multi-millionaire, has bought Marla Maples a £1 million tiara set with 325 diamonds for her to wear at their wedding on Monday. *(AFP)*

Dog's dinner

Houston: Jimmy Hall, 34, who was convicted of cruelty to animals after his dog was found virtually starved, has been sentenced to a weekend



Menem: determined to continue austerity

Rioting forces Menem to go home

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA'S "economic miracle" faced its biggest setback this week when thousands of disgruntled public workers in a poor northern province attacked government buildings, burnt down courts and rampaged through MPs' homes in protest at harsh austerity measures. Nine people were killed and hundreds were injured in the police attempt to quell the rioters.

President Menem was receiving a blessing in the Vatican from the Pope for his work against poverty when the rioting broke out in the province of Santiago del Estero. He saw television reports of protesters looting supermarkets and throwing furniture from the windows of government offices. The President cut short his state visit and flew back to the worst crisis of his four-year-old administration.

More than 4,000 public employees invaded Government House and set dozens of buildings alight after Fernando Lobo, the Governor, announced his administration did not have the money to pay them four months' backdated wages. Police set up barricades outside burning buildings and shot at protesters who threw stones and flaming torches.

Large-scale sackings and cost-cutting in the provinces now threaten to trigger further violence. Riots broke out last week in Señor Menem's home province of La Rioja.

"This could escalate into a massive social upheaval — it is the first clear sign that Argentina's so-called economic miracle is not working as a whole," said Carlos Bordón, the former Governor of Mendoza. But Domingo Cavallo, the Economy Minister and architect of a programme that has stabilised an economy racked by hyper-inflation, defended his measures.

After ordering the deployment of military police to Santiago del Estero, Señor Menem stood firm by his plans. "Despite the social cost in a number of provinces, there will be no going back."

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THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

Moscow ultra-nationalist leader turns to softer domestic image in bid for presidency

Poorer-than-thou politics give Zhirinovsky the edge

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

VLADIMIR Zhirinovsky, the rising star of Russian extremist politics, boasts that he does not love his wife, Galina: "I can't say I've ever loved her very much, although we have normal personal relations." His relationship with their only son, Igor, is "pretty average, on the point of coolness ... sometimes when he was younger I had closer feelings for him".

Perhaps the cold honesty of these revelations in the memoirs of the extremist Leader of the Liberal Democratic party held a perverse appeal for voters who instinctively distrust sentimentality about family life in their politicians; perhaps the bleakness struck a chord of recognition in thousands of loveless Russian families held together by the housing problem rather than mutual inclination.

But now he has decided it is time to drag his nearest, if not dearest, into the spotlight as he cultivates a more domesticated and reasonable image after his electoral success. Igor, 21, a law student, is manning the telephone at the family's home on the outskirts of Moscow and explaining that his father has gone into the country to recuperate from the trials of success. Galina, a researcher in a biological institute, refuses to comment on her husband's beliefs or his success.

At the Liberal Democrats' headquarters, where requests for information used to be turned down in forthright terms or met with demands for money in return for the pleasure of hearing Mr Zhirinovsky rant about the need to expand Russia's borders, a new if rather strained politeness has set in. As he prepares to pitch for the country's presidency, his team has evidently been told to lose its loutishness fast.

The party has crates of badly produced literature on what it calls "the Zhirinovsky phenomenon". The books bear an uncanny resemblance to the ramblings of Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian dictator executed on Christmas Day four years ago, in detailing the "little man's" remarkable trajectory from underprivileged childhood in a remote province to prominence in the capital.



EPIX/SYGMA

Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the Russian neo-Fascist leader, drinking to his electoral success at home with his wife and friends, and below, in his office

One chapter of his memoir is entitled "I am one of you" and further "The tenant in a two-room flat". The habit of boasting about how modest one's apartment is in order to appeal to voters in Russia's notoriously cramped blocks began with Boris Yeltsin and is now so widespread as to be all but meaningless.

Mr Zhirinovsky as usual goes that bit further in the poorer-than-thou rhetoric. "As I write, I am sitting on a shabby cheap sofa next to a similar-looking desk," he says before going on to detail the hardship of his childhood, "spent in a communal flat full of refugees, in a five-day-a-week kindergarten while my mother worked, in pioneer camps, university hostels, army barracks".

Apparently Mr Zhirinovsky profited from a high women's vote. Whether this was due to his appearing in one broadcast with a bunch of flowers and a box of chocolates and pledging that he would "pay homage" to the mothers of Russia or because he promised to satisfy every woman is unclear. Sex appeal is, however, certainly a contributing factor in his success and one on which he plays. He told one audience after the election: "In our cabinet we have a number of intelligent, good-looking men who are in good shape in all senses."

In the memoir — written, as by all good solipsists, in the third person — one line leaps out, startling in its bald truth. "It wasn't he who created the situation. It was the situation which created him."



Kremlin relieved by latest election results

BY ANNE MCELVOY

RADICAL reformers who have dominated Russia's economic and foreign policy for the past two years are likely to control only a third of votes in the new Russian parliament, according to the latest round of results from Sunday's elections.

With only remote constituencies left to declare, the shape of the new Duma became clear yesterday. It will contain three main blocks of reformers, conservatives (communists and sympathisers) and nationalists, with a large group of independent candidates holding the balance of power.

The final result comes as something of a relief to the reformers, crushed by Vladimir Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democrats in the party list voting, which accounts for half the seats in the lower house. However, constituency votes for individual candidates, which account for the other half, have favoured Russia's Choice led by Mr Yeltsin's stalwart companion in reform, Yegor Gaidar, and independents whose support the reformers will hope to win.

Yesterday the government pressed ahead with the approval of new privatisation plans in an attempt to reassure democrats at home, and in the West, that it will not abandon free-market restructuring in the aftermath of the vote. However, the presidential team is deeply concerned about how to handle the disappointing election result, which has given Mr Yeltsin a parliament barely more manageable than the one he dissolved with the aid of tanks in October.

The Russian leader has been in closed meetings this week evaluating the election results and trying to determine a course of action that will acknowledge the seriousness of the protest vote, without changing the basic course of economic reforms. He and his advisers have realised that if they attempt to carry on as if nothing had happened they will fail to stem the flow of support towards Mr Zhirinovsky and his dictatorial solutions. Mr Yeltsin's main problem is what to do with Mr Gaidar, the Economics Minister, whose resignation has been demanded by the Liberal Democrats.

The low turnout of 53 per cent has reflected the widespread dissatisfaction with the government's radical policies and Mr Gaidar in particular. But the West has always treated Mr Gaidar as a guarantor of continued reforms and Mr Yeltsin, hoping to sustain American help for Russia at next month's summit with President Clinton in Moscow, will be wary of sending the wrong signals.

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Anxious Baltic states look to Nato as shield against new imperialism

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania agreed yesterday to co-ordinate their defence policy, switching to Western military equipment and calling for unity against possible Russian threats.

Adolfas Slezevicius, the Lithuanian Prime Minister, said that all three states were worried about the outcome of Russia's parliamentary elections, where the ultra-nationalist Liberal Democrats of Vladimir Zhirinovsky did far better than expected. The states pressed for a speedy withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia and Estonia and pledged to demand a reduction of Moscow's military strength in the Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad.

An Estonian spokesman said that officials from the three states had agreed to co-operate on trade and defence after a meeting in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital. "Following the Estonian example, the Baltic states want to change their weapons to the Nato standard, and inform the North Atlantic Alliance of this," said Indrek Tarand, adviser to Mart Laar, the Prime Minister of Estonia. Nato was the only reliable way to guarantee regional security. The three prime ministers also agreed to set up a hotline between their defence ministries so "operative information" could be exchanged.

Latvia and Lithuania signed an agreement to build an oil cargo terminal in the Latvian port of Liepaja. Construction was expected to receive final approval by the Latvian Government next month, so reducing Baltic dependence on oil deliveries from Russia.

The Baltic states won independence from the Soviet Union soon after a failed hardline coup against Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, in 1991. All have since introduced separate currencies and none has joined the Commonwealth of Independent States. Mr Slezevicius said: "The results of elections in Russia are alarming, but, fortunately, Russia has a new constitution now which may stabilise the situation."

Mr Zhirinovsky wants to see a greater Russia, proclaiming the Baltic states, republics of Central Asia and Ukraine as Russian territories which must return to Kremlin rule. "We are not afraid of Mr Zhirinovsky's threats ... Our force is in unity," Mr Laar said. "We must have more open borders between our [Baltic] countries and reinforce our eastern borders [with Russia]. We must create joint military bodies with the Nato and the European Community."

Baltic concerns are heightened by the continuing presence in Estonia and Latvia of 17,000 Russian troops and a halt in talks to arrange their departure. The last Russian troops left Lithuania in July. They also point to large Russian minorities in the region.

The Liberal Democrats and the Communists, who both performed well in the elections, say that ethnic Russians suffer discrimination in the Baltic states.

Moscow: Rory Peck, 36, a freelance television cameraman from Londonderry, shot dead during the failed October coup, has been awarded the Order for Personal Valour by President Yeltsin, Tass reports. Mr Peck was decorated posthumously for "valour and selflessness displayed while covering the events of October 3 and 4 in Moscow", a presidential decree said. The award is rarely given to foreigners. Mr Peck, who had covered many world conflicts for the BBC, was killed during the attack on Moscow's Ostankino TV station carried out by supporters of the hardline parliament. *(AFP)*

هكذا من الأصل

Serbia voters enticed by visions of glorious future

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

■ In the run-up to tomorrow's election, Serbia's mainstream opposition has taken a violent lurch to the right with talk of expansion and tearing up peace deals

SERBIA goes to the polls tomorrow in an election that may be remembered as the one that sealed its wartime pyrrhic victory. A de facto greater Serbia now stretches from the Romanian border to the Adriatic, but it is an impoverished pariah state and is likely to remain so for years to come. Nobody dares to tell the voters, though.

Serbia's politicians are spinning dreams, luring the electorate with promises of a strong and wealthy United States of Serbia while the economy crumbles. Inflation will probably top 100,000 per cent for this month alone. One Belgrade magazine has coined a phrase for this: making reference to Japanese tidal waves, it talks of an "inflationary tsunami".

As misery engulfs the country, the ruling Socialists promise that peace is imminent and sanctions will soon be lifted. There is no evidence of either. More extraordinary is the violent lurch to the right by the mainstream opposition.

During the summer Vuk Draskovic, the Leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement, was brutally beaten by police and then detained after a demonstration in Belgrade. Appeals on his behalf came from London and across Europe and he was flown to France for medical treatment. There will be red faces in Europe on Monday if Mr Draskovic comes within a hair's breadth of power.

Mr Draskovic promised tens of thousands in a rally in Belgrade on Wednesday that all the Serb-held territories in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina were part of Serbia and so were Sarajevo and Mostar. Both towns remain to be conquered by Serb forces. He also promised to rip up any peace deals made by Slobodan Milosevic, the Serb President.

It had been assumed that Mr Milosevic's Socialists would retain their grip on power, but this is no longer regarded as certain. The surge of support for extreme nationalists in Russia has encouraged the Serbian opposition. So has last Sunday's victory by an anti-Milosevic candidate in Krajina, the Serb-held enclave in Croatia.

Mr Milosevic is not standing for re-election and his marked lack of support for the Socialists in the campaign leads some to believe he has written them off. There are rumours in Belgrade that he will announce a union of Serbia and Serb-held lands in Croatia and Bosnia, but time is running out for such a move to have an electoral impact.

Some believe that Mr Milosevic is preparing for a period of cohabitation where he continues to rule but confounds the West by presenting it with a democratically elected opposition Government, which makes him look like a moderate on the national question. All sorts of coalitions are also being touted, most of them inherently unstable.

One of the more grotesque, but likely possible combinations, is a Socialist-dominated Government propped up by a new party led by Zeljko Raznjatovic, better known by his nom de guerre Arkan. The leader of the Tigers during fighting in Bosnia and Croatia is high on most lists of alleged war criminals and is also wanted by the Swedish, German, Dutch and Belgian police. It is alleged that before the war Arkan was a Yugoslav secret service assassin and a bank robber.

So, Serbs go to the polls tomorrow to celebrate their pyrrhic victory. At the beginning of the war Serbs complained that their fate was always to be winners in war and losers in peace. It is something they believe profoundly and it looks as though it is true once more. Unfortunately it is not a vote winner. More fool Serbia.

Peace deal, page 1
Hospital lifeline, page 5



Zeljko Raznajatovic ("Arkan"), the Leader of the Serbian Unity Party, at a Belgrade election rally

UN pushes for halt to export of landmines

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations has called for a worldwide moratorium on the export of landmines in an effort to halt the scourge that has left up to 100 million unexploded devices littered around the world, from Afghanistan and Iraq to Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Falklands.

The 184-nation General Assembly unanimously adopted a non-binding resolution asking states to stop selling anti-personnel landmines, which can continue to maim and kill long after a war is over. American sources said that Britain opposed the resolution when it was first proposed by Washington, but later yielded to pressure to support it.

Britain joined the consensus in the General Assembly in favour of the resolution, but declined to become one of its more than 70 sponsors. British officials said the resolution was too broad and should have excluded self-destructing or self-neutralising mines and mines that are used for legitimate military purposes. A British delegate told the UN committee which drafted the resolution that it "would be wrong if possession of self-destructing or self-neutralising anti-personnel mines should be restricted to countries with a capacity for manufacturing them". He also insisted that it was legitimate to use anti-personnel mines against military targets, provided that earlier UN guidelines for mapping minefields and protecting civilians were followed.

Britain has not produced conventional anti-personnel landmines since 1982, but does make "runway-denial" mines that are intended to be dropped on military airfields from planes.

In all, an estimated 44 countries produce landmines, with the largest manufacturers believed to be Russia, Brazil, China and Italy. The United States and France are among only a very few mine-producers that currently have a moratorium on exports, although the European Union is considering a five-year ban on exports.

Rotting missiles threaten Somalis

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of leaking and unstable Sam-2 and Sam-3 missiles are threatening two towns in Somalia as the weapons decay after years of neglect.

Lethal acid vapour curls ominously from some of the missiles, which were deployed outside the towns of Hargeysa and Berbera, in northwest Somalia, by the Russians in the 1970s. Children poke the weapons with sticks and scamper over the missile fins, ignorant of the peril they face. Some youngsters have been killed and maimed by minefields laid years ago to defend the Sams.

"Fuming nitric acids are leaking from some of the missiles and can kill if inhaled," said Michael Fellows who works with Rimfire, a British company that wants to dispose of the weapons. "The vapour is very hazardous. If it comes into contact with the skin, it burns; if it comes into contact with other fuels it explodes."

At least 240 missiles have been counted outside Berbera and up to 40 on the outskirts of Hargeysa. Some have toppled over, others are stacked, still in their containers.

Mr Fellows has begun assessing the extent of the decay after Rimfire was sponsored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other agencies to help clear landmines in Somalia. "We have not been able to examine the warheads yet. If they use nitro-glycerine, this can crystallise until it explodes," he said.

Maurice Brackenreed-Johnston, Rimfire's managing director, said: "I doubt anyone has looked at the missiles for five or six years. Children swing from them, they are totally unguarded. Some are only two or three kilometres outside Hargeysa and eventually they could spontaneously combust and hit the town."

□ **Mogadishu:** The US Army's 2nd Battalion, involved in the battle in which 18 Americans died in October here, were pulled out of Somalia, the first combat unit to leave the country. *(AP)*



A Sam-2 missile lies decaying near a Somali town, potentially explosive and leaking lethal vapours

Paris puts brake on 'mad' drivers

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

Spurred by the motorway pile-up in which 15 people died last month, the Government of Edouard Balladur has launched the latest in the long history of efforts to tame the French driver and curb the slaughter which makes French roads the most dangerous among big Western nations.

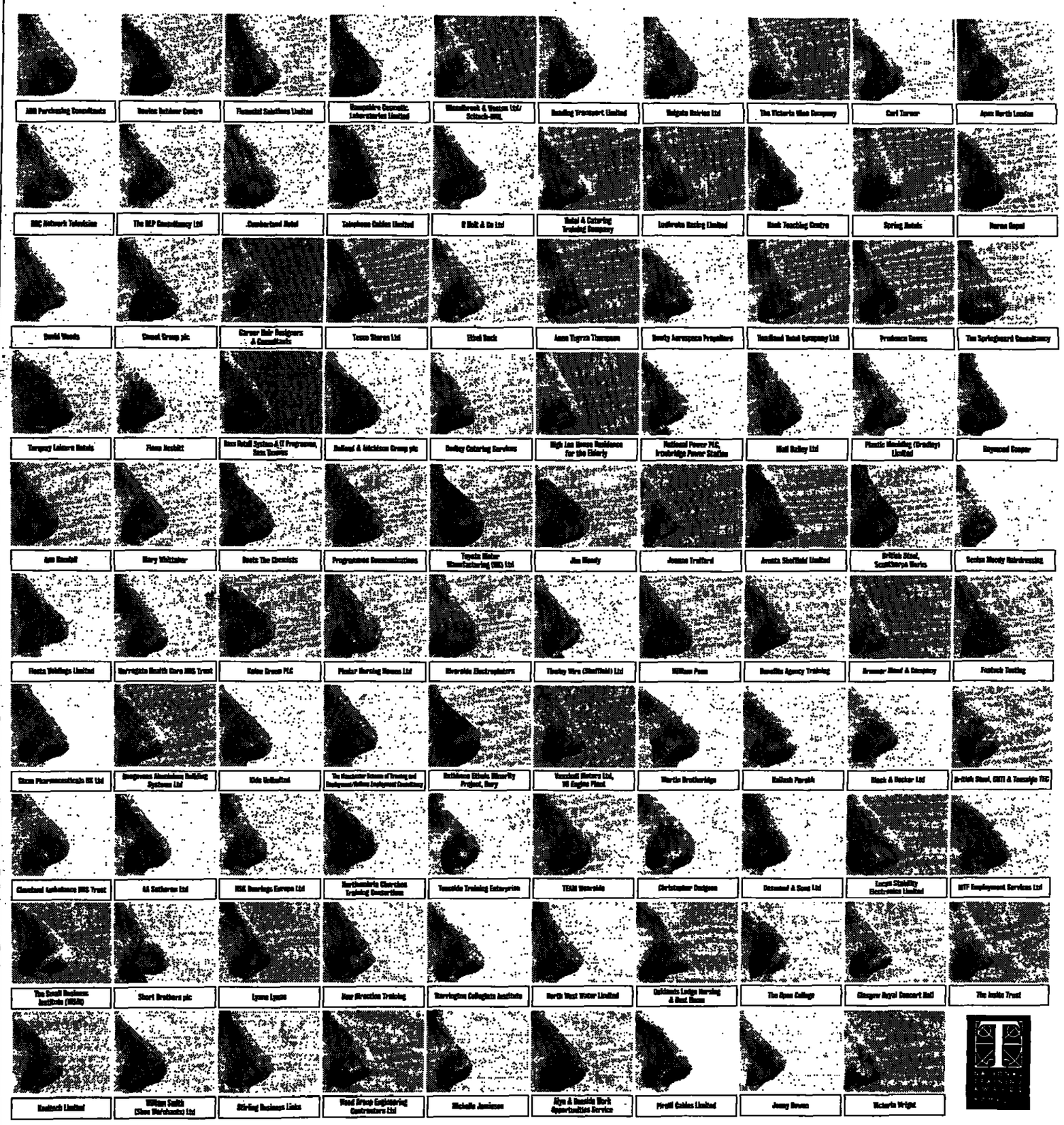
The measures include a new offence of excessive speeding, a reduction of the alcohol limit from 8mg to 7mg per litre and a campaign to encourage drivers to administer breath-tests to themselves. Safety groups denounced the measures as timid in the face of France's annual death toll of over 9,000. "It fails to tackle the root cause — lack of education" said the League Against Violence on the Roads.

"France still has an unacceptable level of insecurity on the roads," said Bernard Bosson, the Transport Minister, who unveiled the package of measures settled by a committee headed by M Balladur. Road deaths rose sharply again this year after a lull in the second half of 1992 following the imposition of the penalty points licence, an event which sparked a lorry driver's strike and brought the country to a standstill.

The November pile-up on the A10 motorway in the southwest briefly focused thought on the way France tolerates a road death-rate double that of Britain's. Twice as many men as women are killed and half of all fatalities are single-vehicle incidents in which the driver leaves the road.

Curiously, the most dangerous time of day is not Saturday night as in many countries, but Sunday afternoon, when the traditional Sunday lunch transforms many family-men into would-be Alain Prosts. While the Gaullist Government is wary of stirring further insurrection with any big crackdown, safety organisations say the only hope of real progress would be fierce enforcement combined with an effort to educate the younger generation to eschew traditional Gallic driving styles and to change the widespread belief that alcohol makes no difference to "good" drivers.

British crackdown, page 1



HOW DID THESE 99 WINNERS GET THEIR NOSES IN FRONT?

These companies and individuals have all won something that's not to be sniffed at, a 1993 National Training Award. All of the entrants had to demonstrate that through the use of training they achieved greater business success.

Some already have the Investor in People standard and many use National Vocational Qualifications.

On the face of it, employers who provide the right environment to allow their employees to achieve the highest standards and reap better results, have a real nose for business. So don't blow your chances, call now for information about the 99 winners, Investors in People, NVQs/SVQs, and to reserve your 1994 National Training Awards Entry Pack.

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Farewell to the beautiful, frenzied city that was the original concrete jungle: after a year, it's time for a rest

Alexander Chancellor in New York

By the time anyone reads this (excepting the really early birds), I should have landed at Heathrow Airport, having left New York for good. So this, sadly, is the end of my connection with the little skyscraper logo. I will miss the logo; and I will miss the real skyscrapers too. Anyway, this being my last column, I thought I should do what is traditional in such circumstances and try to decide what I think of the city I have lived in for the past year. Naturally, there are good things and bad things about New York, so let me try to sort them out.

This is not so easy, because it all depends on how you look at things. If you don't like the idea of enormous wealth, then you might object to the fact that so many people are so much richer here than people are in London. But then, you have to distinguish between them. There are billionaires who use their money purely for self-aggrandisement, and obviously we don't like them; but there are others, perhaps motivated in part by guilt and fear, who spend it usefully and imaginatively to the advantage of everyone in the city.

You almost certainly do not like to contemplate the amount of poverty there is in New York, but then there is something to be said for the fact that you are never allowed to forget it. The destitute are not hidden away. On the contrary, they are visible in the most embarrassing places — begging in front of the smartest shops, sleeping in the lobbies of banks where the cash machines stand, so you have to climb over them to fill up your wallet. The middle-class conscience is never given a moment's respite.

You might welcome the fact that New York has more and generally better restaurants than London, but you might also be infuriated by the snobbery of the fashionable restaurateurs who reserve the best tables for celebrities and keep the unknowns waiting indefinitely for tables they have reserved long in advance.

You might admire the remarkable wealth of culture available in the city, with its plethora of great art collections, libraries, concert halls, theatres, and so on; but you might also be irritated by the reverence in which all culture is held, causing much to be overrated. But then, too, there is a lot to be said for enthusiasm.

It will be clear already that I am



offering judgments from a prosperous, middle-class standpoint, but that is the position from which most New Yorkers make their judgments — even if they are neither prosperous not middle-class, for that is what they aspire to be.

So what else? We don't like the fact that there are 2,000 murders a year in New York (compared to 3,100 deaths in 25 years in Northern Ireland), but then we don't generally come into contact with murder; and burglary, which Londoners have to worry about, affects us hardly at all. We are a little bit frightened of being mugged, but we believe that if we are prudent and avoid eye-contact with strangers, we will probably avoid it. On the other hand, we know we might suddenly get caught up in some unpredictable nightmare, like the recent slaughter on the Long Island Rail Road.

We don't like the dirt, the holes in the roads, the wailing of sirens, the hooting of horns, the roller-blade maniacs or the cyclists who ride on the pavements. We don't like the drug dealers and the other menancing characters we see on the street corners. We don't like imagining that every teenager we see is probably carrying a gun.

We don't like the atmosphere of permanent frenzy, and we sometimes wish that everyone would just shut up and go home. But there are many things we do like, and it seems only fair to this hospitable city to end by emphasising those.

We like everybody's eagerness to serve: the Koreans who keep the grocery stores open all night, the Pakistanis who run the efficient little news-stands, the solicitous doormen of the apartment buildings. We like the way we can order anything by telephone and get it delivered almost instantly. We like the magic of a telephone system which never lets us down. We like getting free programmes in the theatres and no extra charge for packing five passengers into a taxi. We like the way New Yorkers are almost always polite and, whatever their circumstances, usually uncomplaining.

We like the magnificence of the skyline and the grandeur of Central Park. We like the way falcons nest in the skyscrapers. We like the innumerable dogs that have somehow been trained not to foul the sidewalks. We like the sea air which stops us catching colds. We like the nearness of everything, which means we can walk to most places and enjoy the exuberant street life.

Particularly now, with Christmas approaching and trees everywhere festooned with little white lights, New York is a remarkably beautiful place.

Michael Howard's police reforms would mean unacceptable central control, says **Anthony Lester**

Taking the first steps to a state police

Fourteen years in power have done terrible things to the Government's judgment. It has just published a most dangerous Bill, which has not only set the civil liberties lobby implacably against it, but has ranged the police service solidly in the Opposition's camp. It takes real flair and ingenuity for a Conservative government to set itself so foolishly against a body of senior public servants of great integrity and practical experience.

The Government's proposed Police and Magistrate's Courts Bill was published yesterday. It appeared together with the Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill, in what the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, called an indication of the high importance the Government attaches to law and order. It is alarming that two such important Bills are published together when the likely result is that, in the torrent of comment about underage criminals, the profound constitutional effects of the Bill on the organisation of the police service will not be scrutinised in public with enough care.

If this Bill becomes law, it will mean politicising the police service on a massive scale, undreamt of even by the loony left councillors beloved of the Government's propaganda machine. Without any period of consultation, without any Royal Commission, without any wide-ranging public debate, the Home Secretary has announced his intention of creating a police force which will have to meet financial targets set by the Government and policing objectives laid down by the Government, will have Home Office appointees to chair local police authorities, and will have almost a third of its members also appointed by the Home Secretary.

There are no guidelines as to how these important positions are to be filled by the Home Secretary. We have guidelines to indicate how he appoints magistrates and how local councillors will be elected to the police authority — but about the Home Secretary's motives in making appointments to the authorities we have no clue beyond a vague form of words which talks blandly of "people with a relevant knowledge and experience which might otherwise not be available". Mr Howard said yesterday that these guidelines will be published in due course, but was no more specific than to say that the five new members will be local people (which surely the present magistrates and councillors are already) and that they will "bring their own particular expertise to bear".

The Home Secretary has laid down the membership numbers for police authorities. There are to be 16 members for each of the 37 police authorities in England and four in Wales. How will this suit, for example, Greater Manchester, currently a joint police authority composed of ten different local authorities?

With this system, Mr Howard is putting into place a potentially dangerous means whereby, in more volatile political times than these, an extremist government would find it relatively easy to appoint sympathisers to police authorities and thus spell ruin for the traditionally even-handed nature of British policing.

Mr Howard said yesterday that the general thrust of his proposals is to decentralise policing to give chief constables much greater discretion with the resources available to them. But the Bill, if enacted in its present form, will do the opposite. The Bill states that the Home Secretary "may by order determine objectives for the policing of the areas of all police authorities". It will be the job of the police authorities and not of the chief constable, to ensure that these objectives are implemented.

These objectives will be paramount and they will be national. Police forces from Muckle Flugga to Mitcham must have the same national aims. But Britain is still composed of local communities with differing needs. If a future government wishes to direct the police to, let us say, arrest "joyriders" without at the same time building up community policing, or pursue drug dealers where local communities are more worried by household burglaries, local police forces will be hard put to resist, particularly as they are going to be made financially vulnerable. The new financial system dreamt up by Mr Howard for our policing will leave police forces liable to rate-capping. To keep within budget, police forces will have to adhere to government objectives. They may be tempted to save money by dropping local initiatives of the kind painfully worked out between representatives of local communities and their local police.

> A police service outside political control is an important safeguard

The objectives are to be determined by the Home Secretary of the day. The police authorities will have to ensure that the Home Secretary's objectives are implemented by laying down a policing plan which will have to be based upon them. Money — 51 per cent of it from central government — will follow the objectives. The chief constable must follow the plan. This is not decentralisation or (in Eurospeak) subsidiarity. For 30 years, since the Police Act 1964, the thrust of policing has been towards community policing for community needs. Mr Howard yesterday paid lip-service to this concept while undermining it in his Bill.

The Home Secretary seeks parliamentary authority to appoint people to chair each police authority for four-year terms. It is possible that they may be paid. Senior police officers are justifiably anxious about this. One officer of great experience and wisdom pointed out to me that the increased importance of the chairman of the police authority, coupled with the introduction of fixed appointments for chief constables could lead to political pressure on a chief constable, particularly one not approaching retirement.

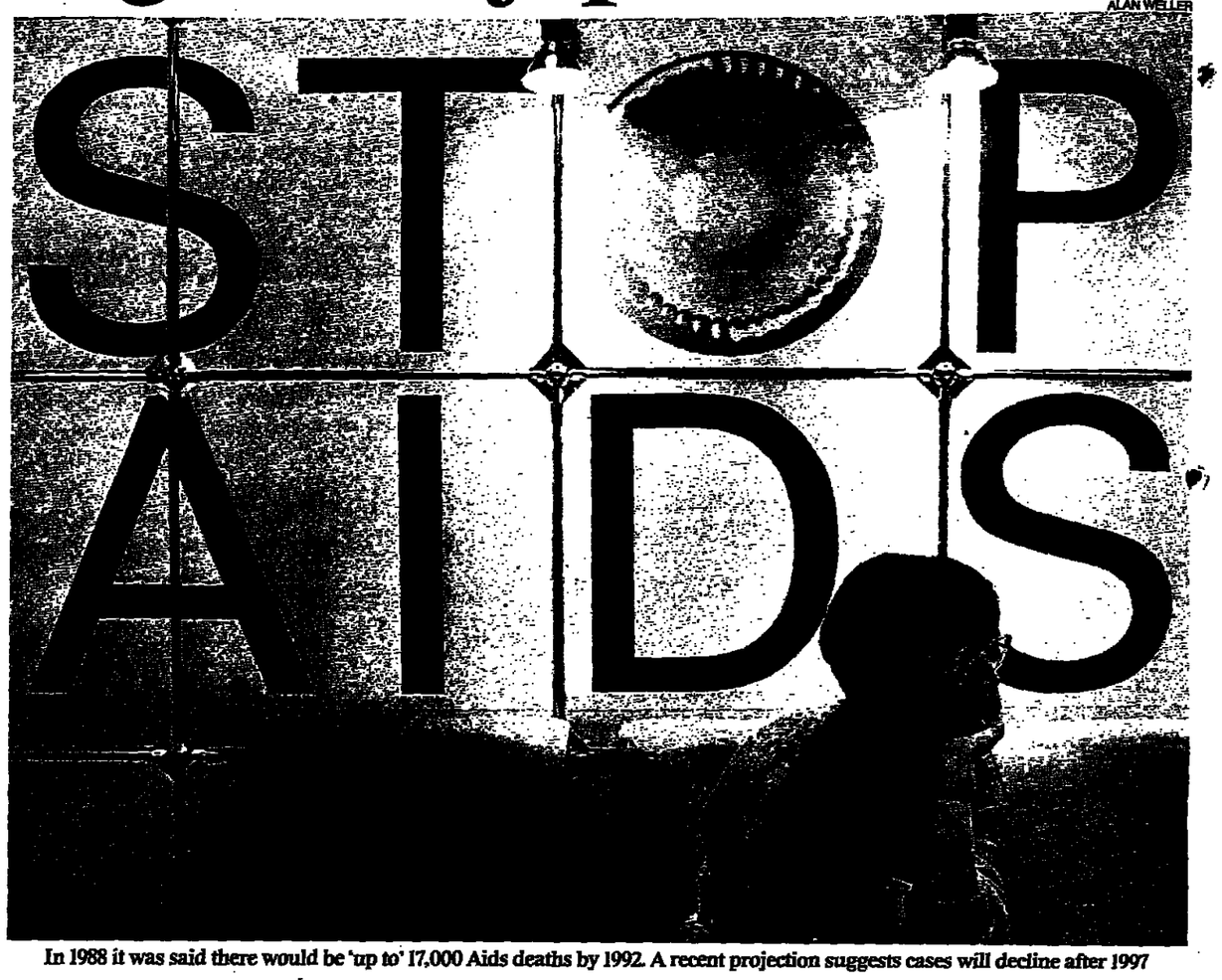
One of the important practical safeguards of our unwritten constitution is that the police service has been and has been seen to be democratically accountable, and had never been subject to national political control. We may have fearful crime figures, but neither the Home Secretary nor the Government has demonstrated that the social evil of criminal wrongdoing can be properly and effectively combatted by tearing at our constitutional safeguards in this way.

The citizens of this country do not need a warden for England and Wales who packs local police committees with people to do his bidding. This Government has mounted and is mounting a wide-ranging attack on democratically accountable local government, of which the police service is an important part. The police do not want Mr Howard's centrally directed police forces; neither do local county councils and other local authorities, and neither should we.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC is a Liberal Democrat peer.

Plagued by politics

To attempt to be dispassionate about Aids is to court the experts' wrath



ALAN WELLER

In 1988 it was said there would be 'up to' 17,000 Aids deaths by 1992. A recent projection suggests cases will decline after 1997

What would Voltaire say? Whenever I suffer a bout of agnosticism, I turn to "the smile of reason". What would he say of the debate on Aids? I think I know. He would warn us to beware of hysterics and look to the money.

Last week the review section of *The Sunday Times* went spectacularly over the top. It reprinted a searing attack on its own Aids coverage from the magazine *Nature*, together with a ferocious counter-attack on that magazine and its editor, John Maddox. A vast headline in red on black cried, "Aids: Why We Won't Be Silenced". Both attack and response dripped vitriol. "Terrible blunder, costly in money and lives", said *The Sunday Times* of *Nature*'s support for the conventional view of Aids. "Seriously mistaken and probably disastrous", replied *Nature* of *The Sunday Times*.

Back came *The Sunday Times*: "*Nature* has led a propaganda war which may have unnecessarily stigmatised millions of HIV-positive people by implanting the idea that they harbour a new and deadly virus which threatens everybody." An apoplectic *Nature* pondered launching a boycott of the Sunday paper, perhaps even picketing its offices. It decided instead to reprint *Sunday Times* stories on Aids, so readers would save 90p not having to buy the original.

Wow! Remove shoes and tiptoe with care. To attempt to write dispassionately about the "new plague" is to court the wrath of both sides. Unlike other diseases, Aids evinces intense feeling. Round it swirl big lobbies, big fundraisers, huge swings in drug company profits. The sensitivity derives largely from the impact of Aids on homosexuals and from predictions of its plague-like proportions. HIV has been called a "time-bomb". It will "decimate the planet". A third of Africa might be depopulated. The Royal College of Nursing said in 1985 that there would be a million Aids cases in Britain by 1990. For a while, swimming pools were closed, communion cups abolished.

Most of the predictions have proved wrong. (Somebody should one day bring a class action for forecasting negligence against statisticians.) As recently as 1988, a government committee said there would be "up to" 17,000 deaths by 1992. There have been fewer than 5,000 to date. In America, instead of growing exponentially, the number infected with HIV appears (I use words with care) to have stabilised at about one million. In Britain, deaths are running at about 450 a year. The most recent projection, from Cambridge University last month, suggests that Aids cases in Britain would start to decline after 1997. Aids has been confined largely to homosexuals and drug abusers, whose activities put them at risk of blood contamination and leave them vulnerable to lethal disease. There are some Aids cases outside the "high-risk" groups, but numbers are tiny: 60 at most in Britain. As far as Britain is concerned, the plague appears to be passing.

Or is it? Aids is an intellectual Catch-22. Question the amount of public alarm and public money generated by campaigners, and they will say these were vital to their success so far. The changes in homosexual and addict behaviour have been salutary. Alarming the mass of the population was perhaps extravagant, but an error on the safe side. Now is no time for complacency. The forecastrs may have been wrong in their timing, but not about the possible cataclysm. So back to the barricades. The danger is not past.

On this basis, any campaign is self-validating. Perhaps this is why the *Sunday Times* / *Nature* argument has plunged into deeper waters: what is the cause of the condition known as Aids, and why, after ten years' intensive research, are we no nearer an answer? It appears to arise in people infected with HIV, a retrovirus identified in 1983, but no causal chain has been proved. To most Aids experts, the high statistical correlation, while possibly spurious, is reason enough to concentrate on HIV as a cause, if not the cause. An unproven link is not a disproved one. Since HIV is clearly communicable, its spread must be watched.

Two difficulties now arise. First, the past failure of forecasting and

Simon Jenkins

the current absence of a causal link have led sceptical scientists to search for Aids elsewhere than in HIV. They have fastened most obviously on the lifestyles of infected victims, and the potent medicines with which they bombard their bloodstreams (as haemophiliacs are bombarded with alien blood). Second, so much money is at stake as inevitably to pollute the debate itself. Some £230 million has been spent on research in Britain alone ($6 billion worldwide). Researchers in hospitals, universities and drugs companies are fighting for huge grants. Lobbyists and public relations firms are retained and journalists are besieged with publicity, especially for the "heterosexual plague" thesis.

If the conventional view is right, more money should be poured into research. The Wellcome company, producer of the controversial AZT drug and lavish supporter of Aids charities, should be put on a war footing. If the other side is right, such money is probably wasted. Homosexuals and needle users should go on being careful. Those who are infected with HIV should be treated normally for whatever illnesses they may (or may not) get. HIV is widespread in Africa but nobody knows how long this may have been the case. HIV victims should not be dismissed as hopeless "Aids" cases. If ill, they should be treated for that illness. Meanwhile research grants should be diverted to cancer, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

These two arguments cannot both be right. As a lay reader, I sense that the link between Aids and HIV is, at very least, being more widely questioned. The government has cut back its Aids budget. Jenny Barraclough's excellent *BBC series has shown* an extraordinary cast of ambitious, fractious scientists feuding over vast sums of money — as well as committed doctors struggling through a thicket of politics and disease.

So what says the smile of reason? It certainly tells us to be humble before the awesome task of the scientist. But it reminds us of the sanctity of debate. From all I have read, it seems that the rubbishing by the orthodox of the views of the American arch-sceptic Peter Duesberg was a denial of scientific method. *The Sunday Times* and Channel Four were right to break ranks and give space to his arguments. Here is a massive difference of opinion. The task of any scholar is to reveal an argument. That means giving opposites a hearing.

I suspect an old syndrome (familiar to newspapers) of money polluting professionalism. Science has become a little craven over Aids. That wise historian Liddell Hart told students always to consider when a man offers them advice what that advice would mean for his job. Beneath each round in the Aids battle lurks a dark question: who is backing whom and with how much? If the stakes really are so high, and for the drugs industry they are high indeed, science must purify itself.

I have a Voltairean suggestion. It is quite simple. Why not ask scientists to declare who funds their research? Publications might do the same for their advertising revenue. Then we can be sure where everyone stands.

I shopped the world

MATTHEW BOND DIARY

ST NICHOLAS, forerunner of the round gentleman who makes December such a miserable month for reindeer, lies in final repose not in some snowy grotto inside the Arctic Circle, but on the tranquil, sun-kissed island of Gemiler, off the coast of Turkey. No fool this proto-Santa, was he?

For the rest of us, however, there is no such escape from festive orthodoxy. Ours is not to reason why, ours is but to do — and shop. Half a shopping day onward, into the valley of terminal retailing we ride — in our six hundreds.

Nothing can budge us from our chosen path, it seems, although a few brave souls persist in trying. "He's not coming back, you know," cries the Bishop of Durham. We'd guessed as much, but we shop on — still trying to make amends for having fouled up so badly two thousand years ago.

Durham tries again. "No such thing as eternal damnation," he shouts. We rest our case, but not our shopping bags. The man's clearly a fool. Either that or he's never tried to walk down Oxford Street on a December Saturday.

Fool or not, Dr David Jenkins makes one last effort. "There's no such thing as Thomas the Tank Engine." We pause as one, rooted to the spot by such heresy. Doubting Thomas? A clap of thunder rings out as the skies darken. "Oh yes there is," bellows a voice from on high. "And I've seven million pounds to prove it." The Rev W. Awdry has spoken. As one we breathe a collective sigh of relief that sends the flags fluttering over Hamley's. We shop on.

Aunts, cousins, mothers, brothers — so many presents to buy and so few days in which to get them. Not to mention *what* to buy. Thankfully a few chance encounters provide some timely clues.

Like bumping into long-lost great uncle Yassir, who judging by the bulge in his wallet pocket is clearly planning quite a spree himself. "Uncle Yassir, Uncle Yassir," I exclaim, "the season's greetings to you. Tell me what you would like as a present?" He flashes one of his best avuncular smiles, you know, the United Nations one. "Ah, long-lost British nephew. How kind of you to ask. What I want for Christmas is an independent Palestine and peace in the Middle East."

"But Uncle Yassir, I thought we'd given you that already — for your birthday." Another smile, this time the White House lawns version: "I thought so too, British nephew. I thought so too. Now I'd like it for Christmas." Then with a wave he is gone. "I'm off to Dublin now," he shouts over his shoulder.

"Dublin? Hang on a minute . . ." I yell, but too late. He has gone. Anxiously I check my list. Dublin . . . Dublin . . ? Yes, just as I thought. Peace in Ireland is there all right, but marked for Cousin John and Cousin Albert.

But the Advent shopping clock is ticking. I must press on. Now what was it that little John Selwyn asked for? I could almost see the childish scrawl. "Anything that glows in the dark, please." Quick as a blinding flash I pop into the British Nuclear Fuels gift shop and buy him a Thorp nuclear reprocessing plant. If only all of them were that easy — and a snip at £2.8 billion.

I am still waiting for it to be gift-wrapped (pop back in about 10,000 years, sir) when I bump into glamorous Auntie Di, the original woman who has everything. "Mwaa, mwaa," I pucker. "Yes, really nice to see you too, Diana. But what *do* you want for Christmas?" She turns her head sideways and downwards and whispers. "I want to be alone."

Haven't we all felt that one Christmas or another, I think. I get my notebook out. Handkerchiefs.

Cousin Leon (once removed, as I recall) should have been easy. For more years than I can remember, the item always at the top of his Christmas list was a world trade agreement. But just as I am about to pop into Galeries Lafayette (the French seem to have cornered the market) to buy one, I bump into him. "Guess, what I've just got for Christmas?" he burbles happily. I couldn't. "A deal on world trade." Gatt away, I think. Back to the negotiating table on that one.

But just when I think it safe to go back into the department store, who should I run into but wicked Uncle Vladimir, still celebrating his successes in the Russian elections. "Ah Uncle Vlad," I mumble nervously, fumbling for my notebook. "I think I've got you down for some nice velvet gloves to keep your, um, hands warm. Is that all right?"

"No, bourgeois Western nephew, it is not." Drawing himself up to his full height, he reaches for his breast pocket. "I've got a little list . . ."

I bet you have. Uncle Vlad. I bet you have.

هكذا من الأصل

CHANGING CRIMES

The good, the bad, the interim and the "too difficult"

A Bill on criminal justice was always planned for this parliamentary session. The primary purpose was to enact the Runciman Commission's proposals to prevent the wrongful conviction and jailing of innocent people. Then came a wave of disquiet about crime, borne upon a tide of government unpopularity. The litany of horrific cases — from the death of James Bulger to the sickening torture of Suzanne Capper — helped to keep the fear of crime consistently high in the list of public concerns.

The new Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill, published yesterday, is now not designed to avoid miscarriages of justice. That aspect has been placed, temporarily we hope, on the "too difficult" shelf. The prime aim is rather, in the Home Secretary's words, "to make it easier to catch, convict and punish" criminals. It is by that standard, therefore, rather than by the original intention that it should be judged. At least some of the measures should succeed. The government's popularity, which, as our MORI poll revealed yesterday, has not been improved by the Budget, now has another prop.

Practised criminals with clever lawyers will find it harder to "ambush" the prosecution with an alibi never mentioned to the police at the time of arrest. If they choose to remain silent during interrogation, that fact will now be brought to the notice of the jury. By helping to convict those who make cynical use of the "right to silence", this measure should please both police and public. It is regrettable, however, that there are no countervailing measures to protect weaker defendants who may be intimidated into making false confessions by police threats that silence will be construed by a court as guilt. Michael Howard should consider accepting the Runciman recommendation that all confessions be video-taped.

Harsher sentences for persistent young offenders are unlikely to turn these boys into angels. But the prospect that they will be removed from society for a time is to be welcomed. The ability to sentence young rapists and robbers to terms in secure accommodation is highly desirable. Mr Howard is right to address the vulnerability and impotence that people feel when youngsters boast about the inability of the criminal justice system to punish them. If children grow up faster than they used to, the law should reflect that change.

Mr Howard's proposed reforms of the prison service and the police are a mixed bag. By removing the right to strike from prison officers and by putting out to tender all prison escort duties, he has exposed his quite justified impatience with the Prison Officers Association. That trade union has goaded, blackmailed and infuriated Home Secretaries for years. It fully deserves the treatment.

Police reform raises some trickier constitutional questions. It is good that chief constables are to have more control over their budgets, which in theory should allow them to tailor their forces more closely to local needs. Yet at the same time they are being asked to meet national objectives; indeed, on a fixed-term, performance-related contract, they will have to do so.

The threat of a police force being run by Whitehall is strengthened by the Home Secretary's determination to appoint five members and the chairman of each police authority. A chief constable will be accountable to the chairman of his police authority, who will have been appointed by the Home Office, and to the Home Office itself through the national objectives. This Government may not abuse such power, but others could.

The inclusion of appointees on police authorities is supposed both to reflect their greater powers to direct spending, and to prevent them being hijacked by left-wing, anti-police members. The "loony" excesses of the early 1980s are heard of much less today. One day, conceivably, the Conservatives will no longer be in office. A Labour government will be able to pack these police authorities with its own people. These measures must be seen as merely transitional. The Home Secretary should devolve his powers to appoint police authority chairmen after no more than five years. Britain must not be given a centralised police force by stealth.

GROW UP, GREECE

Macedonia must have diplomatic ties

Britain and five other key members of the European Union established diplomatic relations on Thursday with the "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". The awkward name betrays the ugliness inherent in enforced compromise. It regards itself, more economically, as the Republic of Macedonia, being neither Yugoslav, nor a former republic. Greece, however, mulishly insists on calling it "Skopje". True to recent form, it has reacted to the forging of ties with fury.

The latest row is not about the question of Macedonian statehood. Macedonia was admitted to the United Nations (in spite of a hostile Greek campaign opposing the move) on April 9. Membership is open only to states. It fulfilled the criteria of statehood — namely, a permanent population, defined territory, effective government and independence — laid down in international law. It also satisfied the Badinter Commission that it provides adequate constitutional protection for ethnic minorities, which Croatia did not do. The establishment of diplomatic relations is, rather, a political decision which sovereign states may choose to take. Intelligent diplomacy dictates that there ought always to be such relations between states in the absence of compelling reasons that dictate otherwise. In the case of Macedonia, there are no such reasons. In fact, due to Greece, ties have been disgracefully delayed. President Kiro Gligorov's government is moderate and enlightened. Western diplomatic support would help him isolate nationalist hardliners, especially Ljupko Georgevski's Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation.

The once stable economy, potentially stronger than that of Greece, has paid the price for international sanctions against Serbia, its most significant trading partner. It needs credit from Europe urgently; but such aid will run, inevitably, into a wall of Athenian intransigence. There has been a coarsening of the Greek position on the Macedonian question in recent weeks. In a tantrum that he came to regret, Theodoros Pangalos, the Greek European Affairs Minister, reacting to Bonn's Balkan policy, described Germany as a "bestial giant with the brains of a child". His statement will be hard to match for diplomatic vulgarity. Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, has threatened to retaliate against members of the European Union which establish ties with Macedonia.

If Germany is a "giant", Greece is the "sick man" of the European Union, with the weakest economy and the least free society. Its economic dependence on Europe is absolute. Athens might still vent its spleen on Macedonia. Any blockade of that landlocked state, however, would be illegal. Greece must be warned of this in the sternest terms. Greece ascends to the Presidency in January. It must be in step with the Union over which it will preside.

MAO'S MEN AND WOMEN

Britain should make plain that its media are not for bullying

In a manner that recalls the Saudi response to *Death of a Princess*, China seems bent on giving free publicity to the television documentary, *Chairman Mao — The Last Emperor*. The Chinese have pestered the Foreign Office to lean on the BBC; and the BBC correspondent in Peking has been threatened with unspecified but severe "consequences" if Monday's screening of the BBC programmme is not cancelled.

The offending film is BBC 2's offering for the centenary of Mao Tse-tung's birth on December 26. It provides a detailed account of Mao's insatiable appetite for young girls, buttressed by the evidence of Dr Li Zhisui, the Chairman's personal physician for more than 20 years. China objects that the BBC is employing "despicable means to sling mud and make personal attacks" on him. It would have been wiser to keep silent.

The timing is obviously awkward. Mao's standing in Chinese propaganda provides a convenient barometer of trends within its secretive leadership, and has fluctuated wildly since his death in 1976. His Cultural Revolution slogans were revived as Peking clamped down after Tiananmen. Now, in the manoeuvring to succeed the ailing "paramount leader", Deng Xiaoping, the hagiographers are at work to emphasise the continuity of China's revolution since Mao proclaimed the People's Republic in 1949.

The BBC film is undoubtedly more entertaining than the turgid evaluations currently being cranked out by China's official media. Even without the fuss, smuggled videotapes would have found a ready market in China. But the documentary does no more than fill out what was already widely known about Mao's personal morality. And there is an obvious, if unpalatable, truth in the contention of Chinese officials that these revelations "cannot do any damage to the position which Chairman Mao occupies in history".

The real damage is already a matter of official Chinese record, although most outside experts would double China's estimate that 20 million died of famine as a direct result of Mao's Great Leap Forward in the late 1950s. As Jeremy Bennett, the producer, emphasises in today's *Times Magazine*, Mao's sex-life matters only as a further clue to the mentality of a tyrant, who barely waited for China to recover from that famine before unleashing the murderous anarchy of the Cultural Revolution.

The Foreign Office shows no sign of repeating Lord Carrington's disgraceful apology to Saudi Arabia: but it should use this occasion to take the war to the enemy. The propaganda department of China's State Council is waging an intensive campaign to bring Hong Kong's media to heel, using intimidation where blandishments or purchases of papers by Peking sympathisers fail. Since early last month, China has also resumed its jamming of the Mandarin broadcasts of the BBC World Service. The Government should give every instance of attempted Chinese censorship maximum publicity. British silence will only be taken by Peking as assent, and by Hong Kong's journalists as a betrayal of principle.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Fair dealing in a democratic Russia

From Mr Mark Almond and others

Sir, As observers at Sunday's elections in Russia (reports, December 13-17) may we express our alarm at the long delay in issuing the final results. Before voting began the central election commission (CEC) and representatives of the pro-Yeltsin Russia's Choice bloc, confident of victory, said that results could be expected on Monday morning. However, although, in our experience, counting was concluded soon after midnight in the polling stations we visited in Moscow and St Petersburg, reliable official results, as we write, remain sparse. Other observers with whom we spoke concurred. Such long delays between the completion of local counts and the issue of an overall result have often, in elections in other countries, been the sign of fraud.

The CEC on Monday refused to permit observers to visit its Moscow headquarters to observe what we understood was going to be the recording of official results. It had already ordered that Russian observers be refused admission to counts at individual polling stations.

Few of those present at the CEC chairman's press conference on Monday can have been convinced by Mr Nikolai Ryabov's explanations of why the commission could confidently give out on Sunday afternoon running figures on the turnout, when 24 hours later he claimed to have no final figures.

Those Western observers who confirmed the impeccable nature of the electoral proceedings in Russia (in some cases before the polls had closed and in one case, we understand, before they had even opened) seem to have forgotten Comrade Stalin's dictum pronounced in 1926 behind the scenes at a party congress: "It does not matter who votes: what matters is who counts the votes."

Few Russians seemed to have confidence in the impartiality of the commission. The inordinate delay in issuing a full set of results can only confirm their cynicism.

Some Westerners, rightly troubled by the support for Vladimir Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democrats and the Communists, might think that a bit of post-election massaging of the results in favour of the Yeltsin camp would be no bad thing. To condone that would discredit Western-style democracy in Russia. It might also promote anti-Western feelings upon which the likes of Zhirinovsky have prospered.

Yours faithfully,
MARK ALMOND,
JESSICA DOUGLAS-HOME,
CHRISTINE STONE,
14 Northmoor Road, Oxford.
December 17.

From Mr R. Wright

Sir, As a businessman who travels frequently to Russia I was appalled by the Rees-Mogg article, "Russia's bad tidings" (December 16). Rather than ally Nato with a democratic Russia he seems to prefer China, a country governed by a regime that only four years ago was slaughtering its own citizens in the streets.

He also implies that the economic reforms undertaken by the Russian government have been a failure. An excellent analysis in *The Economist* of December 11, for example, suggests that the reforms appear to be working and the economy is experiencing major and beneficial structural changes.

We in the European Union should be helping our fellow Europeans in Russia by lowering our trade barriers to Russian exports (including food products) and providing cheap investment finance to help the Russians to rebuild their dilapidated infrastructure, not only around Moscow and St Petersburg but also around the smaller provincial towns, which have so far received very little Western investment.

Apart from such assistance helping us too out of recession, we would reinforce democracy in Russia. Mr Zhirinovsky and his neo-Fascists might then become history.

Yours faithfully,
R. WRIGHT,
3 St Johns House,
Susan Wood, Chislehurst, Kent.
December 16.

Hats and horses

From Mr Ivor Herbert

Sir, Mr Claude R. Hart (letter, December 4), who points out that the horse-racing fraternity all wear hats and raise them in greeting, lights upon an open secret: racing, particularly steeplechasing, is the last haven of courtesy. This springs partly from admiration of physical courage in horse and rider, but also from the financial bravery of owners, trainers, staff and punters, who know that, under Britain's ludicrous betting system, none can make a fat living, but all can find a happy one.

From this mutual respect comes that vanishing thing, long extinct in foul football and elsewhere: public politeness.

Yours faithfully,
IVOR HERBERT,
The Old Rectory, Bradenham,
Buckinghamshire.

With the postal delays that often occur at this time of year, it is useful, where possible, for letters to be faxed to 071-782 5046. Please give contact telephone numbers.

London, declining and delighting

From Mr Robert Mitchell

Sir, The spreading and intensifying decline of London (Peter Millar's article, "Do we want a London to be proud of?", December 11) is not unexpected. In my letter (April 8, 1986), written as the Greater London Council died, I said: "London will only gradually appreciate its loss for the GLC dealt with strategic issues."

There was almost a century of London government by the GLC and its predecessor, the London County Council. The GLC added to the Green Belt (now being eroded) assembled by the LCC, and also gave London a uniquely efficient refuse disposal system and saved a geologically sinking London from certain flooding by installing the Thames Barrier.

The Covent Garden development, free travel passes and seaside homes for pensioners, Crystal Palace Sports Centre, the South Bank — these and many other schemes were possible only from an authority with a London-wide vision and the resources which come from such a large rating base. The last major improvement to London Transport — automatic ticketing on the Underground — was initiated by the GLC.

On its demise, almost no GLC powers went to the boroughs. They ascended into ministries and quangos, employing even more people in the process. Today no one speaks for London. No one watches London's interests. Since the GLC died there has not been a single major London initiative.

London could not even bid for the Olympic Games. In 1985 the City of London's bid got two votes to Birmingham's 25 and in 1991 the squabbling of two London groups ensured that Manchester would represent Britain. Frankfurt got the European Bank, despite London's overwhelming lead in banking, largely because there was no single authority with which to deal.

In its first decade the GLC did many splendid things. As a member for all its 22-year life from 1964 to 1986, I grieved as, in its second decade, under both parties, it sank into a ridiculously over-politicised morass.

London is the only major city in the Western world that does not have an overall strategic authority. It will never flourish until it has an elected authority to speak for it in the forums of the world.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MITCHELL
(Chairman, Greater London Council, 1971-72).
Hatchwood House, Nursery Road,
Loughton, Essex.
December 13.

From Mrs Shannon Williams Brock

Sir, As a US citizen, resident in London for the past six months, I am weary of hearing and reading what a terrible place London is. This incredibly beautiful and amazing city is a feast of the greatest magnitude.

People here were outraged over a problem with the Underground, reported on November 25, apparently believing that the power failures were in some way shameful. I suggest that they should go to the United States and take a train ride — if indeed they can find a train to ride on — either on a subway or on any main railroad.

If they do so, they will most likely find either that the rail company went into bankruptcy the previous night; or that the train is out of action; or (if not) that its personnel are on strike, drugs or alcohol; or that one of their fellow passengers harbours so deep a resentment against society that he is randomly killing the others.

Should they emerge unscathed, they must still navigate through muggers, drug-users and assorted felons on the station. If they do all of this and still arrive at their destination within two hours of their target, they have fared well.

I awake each morning overjoyed to find myself on this side of the Atlantic. London, you are stunning. I am so pleased to be living here!

Yours truly,
SHANNON W. BROCK,
20 Lammas Park Road, Ealing, W5.
December 11.

Northern Ireland's place in the UK

From Mr John Walters

Sir, When did the Queen's Government start to consider Northern Ireland as a colony and not as part of the Queen's realm? Why does the Prime Minister presume to deny to the people of Great Britain any involvement in settling the constitutional future of Northern Ireland?

I suspect the answer is that he is confident that the sense of nationhood and public responsibility of most of the people of Great Britain is now so diluted, not to say corrupted, that they would gladly relinquish Northern Ireland. He is probably right: I expect they would do so with only the faintest pang of conscience — maybe not enough even to cause a shrug of the shoulders.

Of course the Prime Minister does not see it that way — one wouldn't expect him to.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WALTERS,
Gray's Inn Chambers,
Gray's Inn, WC1.
December 16.

From Mr Tom Hewitt

Sir, I thought that Northern Ireland was still *de facto* and *de jure* part of the United Kingdom. No wonder, then, that Mr Paisley and his colleagues are upset when they read that the British (sic) Government has "no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland" (agreement text, December 16).

Yours faithfully,
TOM HEWITT,
26 Bradford Drive, Ewell, Surrey.
December 16.

From Mr Nigel S. Cobb

Sir, Presumably Scotland, Wales and then Cornwall will be next on the list for self-determination.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL S. COBB,
Fairacres, Halley Road,
Broad Oak, Heathfield, East Sussex.

From Colonel Christian de Lisle

Sir, If this is what an alleged "grey" Prime Minister can achieve had we not better get some more like him? *Spitting Image* please copy.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CHRISTIAN de LISLE,
Rabley Park, Ridge,
Nr Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.
December 16.

Sunday shopping snag

From Mr Geoffrey N. Silman

Sir, Parliament's chosen option on Sunday trading (report, December 9; letters, November 29, December 1, 8, 16) could have a deleterious effect on the landlord and tenant relationship, particularly in shopping centres. One of the problems with 25-year leases (which historically have been common) is that it is impossible in the preparation of them to anticipate changes in the law at any time throughout the term.

Many tenants in shopping centres now have leases which contain covenants requiring them to keep open for trade. There are inevitably variations in the wording but other than in exceptional cases Sunday trading was not foreseen.

The consequence is that, although everyone has assumed that opening on a Sunday will be optional (apart perhaps from economic forces), the reality, as the Bill stands, is that many tenants will be in breach of this covenant if they do not open and the centre decides to do so.

Whilst a mandatory injunction requiring them to open will be unlikely they could be liable in damages. Similarly, even if they are not required by the terms of their lease to open, or they wish not to do so in any event, they could be landed with a substantially heavier service charge and rates bill to cover the additional costs incurred.

These are just some of several landlord and tenant issues that really need to be addressed.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY N. SILMAN,
Nathan, Silman (solicitors),
Osprey House,
78 Wigmore Street, W1.
December 9.

From Mr George W. Keeling

Sir, In view of many families' increased weekend commitments (i.e., Sunday sport, shopping, etc), and having regard to the parlous state of the Church Commissioners' finances, is there not a strong case for the seven-day opening of churches?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE W. KEELING
(Churchwarden),
21 Firfield Avenue, Breaston, Derby.
December 9.

Could do better

From Mr R. D. O'Driscoll

Sir, You publish an article by Bernard Levin on December 9 ("That's enough lies, thank you") concerning the tired administration of this country, the contents of which we lesser mortals have, with at least equal profanity, been uttering in private for some considerable time.

On a news page on the same day (earlier editions) you publish a headline stating that the Lord Chancellor advises that the use of the courts to obtain family justice should be avoided at all costs. In fairness to the Lord Chancellor that is not what he actually says, but the reported contents of his speech undoubtedly justify the implication of your headline.

Bearing in mind that the Lord Chancellor is the minister of the Crown ultimately responsible for the courts and for the administration of justice in this country, such advice must be the ultimate admission of failure by any department of any government.

Bernard Levin need look no further for a complete vindication of the views and advice expressed in his article.

Yours faithfully,
R. D. O'DRISCOLL,
The Gleanings,
58 St Margarets Street,
Rochester, Kent.

Hell: in the mind or the next life?

From the Reverend Ronald Fraser Yule

Sir, The Bishop of Durham's comments on the Second Coming and Hell (report and leading article, December 15) should be welcomed. How many have abandoned the Church and faith, because of the inability of clergy and laity alike to recognise that myth and symbol play as important a role in the expression of belief and doctrine as does the claim of infallibility about Scripture, so desperately clung to by evangelicals today?

Many of today's generation have a deeper and more sensitive understanding of the faith than these clerics, who think themselves above contradiction and, through their myopic view of God's word, limit not only their own preaching and teaching but also deny to many others the possibility that their understanding could be equally valid and sincere.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD F. YULE,
15 Victoria Street,
Fraserburgh, Grampian.
December 15.

From Mrs Joanna Clark

Sir, Most thinking Christians no more expect Jesus to return "down" to earth than we think that all humans are the literal descendants of Adam and Eve. We all recognise the perpetual truth embodied in these stories while we acknowledge the errors of scientific understanding that existed 2,000 and more years ago.

The bishop's compassionate talk about people who commit terrible evils, and the methods of justice we humans and God need to use, was far deeper than the press coverage implies, with its shallow comments about Hell and eternal damnation as part of the Church's "traditional teaching". Love and hope are the central themes of the Church's faith and these were expounded clearly by the bishop.

What is the use of a religion if it does not sanctify life? Humanitarian concern for one's fellows is enriched when the religious dimension is added, but religion without contact with the world is a cruel and dangerous tyrant. The bishop is a good old-fashioned liberal with a loving and compassionate concern for a world which he views as God's world. Long may he continue to teach.

Yours faithfully,
JOANNA CLARK,
199 Wickham Chase,
West Wickham, Kent.
December 15.

From Mr Humphry Berkeley

Sir, I am a practising and believing Roman Catholic. For the first time, I find myself very close to agreeing with the Bishop of Durham.

I have no doubt that there is a Devil, but I cannot believe that an Almighty and all-merciful God could consign one of the creatures made, in his own image, to Hell.

While most of us will spend a period in Purgatory, a process of purification, I believe that the Devil dines alone.

Yours faithfully,
HUMPHRY BERKELEY,
Three Pages Yard, Chiswick, W4.
December 15.

From Mr Barry S. Hyman

Sir, If Hitler and Stalin aren't burning or rotting in Hell, where are they?

Yours faithfully,
BARRY HYMAN,
4 Priory View,
Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire.
December 15.

Drinking and driving

From Mr Gerald Vinestock

Sir, Mr Hugh I. Arnold (letter, December 17) seeks to draw drink-driving contrasts. How comforting it will be for relatives of those killed by drunken drivers that the death has been caused by a maturely pickled adult, not some legless callow youth.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD VINESTOCK,
2 Overhead Cottages,
Capernwray, Carnforth, Lancashire.
December 17.

No sinking feeling

From Miss Anne Tully

Sir, I do not share the pessimism of your reader, Mr Cottle, who wrote (December 17) to question the use of a Royal National Lifeboat Institution charity card received from his bank. We in these chambers have used it as our Christmas card too. We see the rescuers on it as riding the crest of a wave.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE TULLY
(Member), King's Chambers,
27 Gildredge Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.

From Mrs Margaret Fairburn

Sir, Cheer up, Mr Cottle: the RNLI Christmas card depicts a safe rescue.

Yours safely,
MARGARET FAIRBURN,
Flat 2, 95 Nore Road,
Portishead, Avon.

Weekend Money letters, page 27

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 17: His Excellency Mr Rabindranath Permanand was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in London.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the High Commission: Mrs Sheelagh de Osuna (Deputy High Commissioner), Mrs Vernetta Calvin-Smith (Counsellor), Mr Clive Pegus (First Secretary), Miss Merlyne Alexander (Attaché) and Mrs Joycelyn Tifferson (Attaché).

Mrs Permanand was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir David Gillmore (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Lord Jenkins of Hillhead was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

Mr Lucian Freud was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

Sir Edward Ford (Secretary and Registrar of the Order of Merit) was in attendance.

Mr Justice Mance was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 17: The Prince of Wales, Colonel, Welsh Guards, this morning received Brigadier John Rickett.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 17: The Princess of Wales this morning received Captain Tom Blackburn RN upon relinquishing the appointment of Commanding Officer HMS Cornwall and Captain Charles Freeman RN upon assuming the appointment.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 17: The Duke of Kent, Patron, British Menswear Guild, this afternoon visited the Birmingham Badge and Button Company, Clement Street, Birmingham, and was met on arrival by Lord Guernsey (Vice Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands).

His Royal Highness, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, later visited Land Rover, Lode Lane, Solihull, Birmingham, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

The Duke of Kent this evening attended a concert of the Black Voices Choir at the Town Hall, Birmingham.

Captain Alexander Tetley was in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.M. Bradby and Miss C.G.J. Hill-Norton
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Captain and Mrs D.J. Bradby, and Claudia, daughter of Vice Admiral the Hon Sir Nicholas and Lady Hill-Norton.

Mr E.A.J. Cargill Thompson and Miss K. Jeffrey
The engagement is announced between Edmund, younger son of the late Professor James Cargill Thompson and of Mrs Jennifer Cargill Thompson, of London, NW1, and Katrina, only daughter of Mrs Susan Jeffrey, of Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Mr C.J. Cockell and Miss C.S. Humphries
The engagement is announced between Christopher John, son of Mr Peter Cockell, of West Kington, Wiltshire, and Mrs Hilary Cockell, of Bath, Avon, and Catherine Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Munro Humphries, of Aston, Bampton, Oxfordshire.

Mr S.P. Flame and Miss S.M. Turner
The engagement is announced between Simon Flame, of London, SW10, son of the late Mr D.C. Flame and of Mrs David Flame, of Chadwell Heath, Essex, and Susan, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Turner, of Adelaide, South Australia.

Mr A. Hand and Miss F.A. Bunce
The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs Desmond Hand, Drogheda, Ireland, and Fay, daughter of Mr John Bunce, Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire, and Mrs Marilyn Bunce, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Mr R.P.A. Hornsby and Miss J.A. Amanze
The engagement is announced between Richard Hornsby, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. Russon, of Tupsley, Hereford, and Juliette, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.J. Amanze, of Umuokatu Amapu, Ntigha, Abia State, Nigeria.

Mr J. Prett and Miss S. Black
The engagement is announced between Jeffrey, son of Mr and Mrs Graham Prett, of Carpender's Park, Hertfordshire, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Black, of Golders Green, London.

Mr T.J. Markham and Miss N.C. Brunn
The engagement is announced between Toby, son of Major John Markham, of Ottawa, Canada, and Mrs Yvonne Markham, of Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire, and Natasha, daughter of Captain and Mrs Walter Brunn, of Weybridge, Surrey. The wedding will take place in London on May 7, 1994.

Mr R.G. Priester and Miss E.S.C. Fruithof
The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Mr and Mrs Gerhard Priester, of Capellen, Luxembourg, and Evanna, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Michael Fruithof, of Letchworth, Hertfordshire.

Mr A.M. Sauter and Miss D.S. Morgan
The forthcoming marriage is announced between Adrian, younger son of Mr A.G.J. Sauter, of Bromley, Kent, and the late Mrs Sauter, and Daphne, only daughter of Mr W.T. Morgan, of Llandeilo, Dyfed, and the late Mrs Morgan.

Mr S. Thomas and Miss F. Smith
The engagement is announced between Simon Thomas, BEng, son of Mr and Mrs James Thomas, Loughborough, Leicestershire, and Fiona Smith, BBS, MBA, daughter of Mrs Gemma Smith-Maughan and stepdaughter of Mr Michael Maughan, Ballsbridge, Dublin.

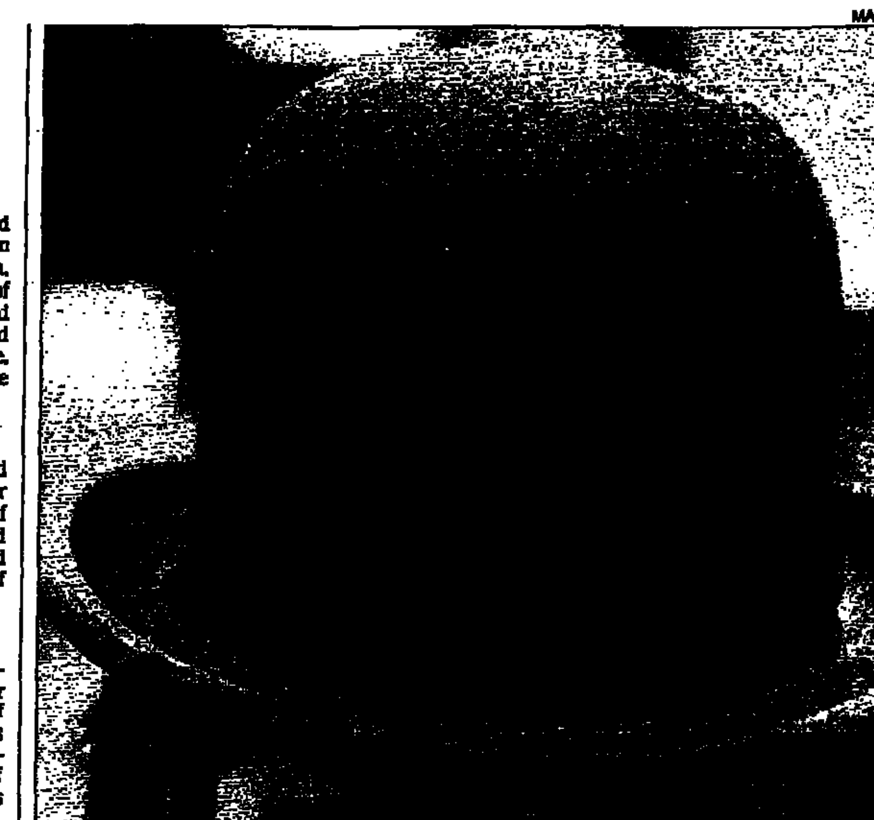
Marriage

Mr D.A. Hobbs and Miss R.I. Rose
The marriage took place on December 16 at the Church of The Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London, W1, between Mr David Hobbs and Miss Roberta Isabel Rose. Father Stephen Ortiger, OSB, officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Major H.L.St V. Rose, and was attended by Isabella and Alexandra Galliers-Pratt, Sarah Dent, Iona Wotherspoon, Max Cosbie and Angus Mossman. Major C.M. Hobbs, RAMC, was best man.

A reception was held at Claridge's and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

MARTIN BEDDALL



Francesca Collin of Christie's tries out Charlie Chaplin's hat and cane which were sold by the auction house yesterday for £55,000. Both hat and cane were seen with Chaplin in *The Great Dictator* and some of his other films

School news

Shiplake College
The Headmaster of Shiplake College, Henley on Thames, and Mrs Bevan, with present and past members of the Senior Common Room and their spouses, held a dinner in the Great Hall of the College on Thursday night to bid farewell to Mr H.E. Wells-Furby. Mr Wells-Furby first joined the staff in 1960 and had been Second Master since 1981.

Weekend birthdays are on the facing page

Memorial service

Sir William Morton
The Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire gave an address at a memorial service for Sir William Morton was held yesterday at All Saints' Church, Northampton. The Rev Simon Godfrey officiated and the Bishop of Peterborough pronounced the blessing. Councillor John Ewart, Leader of the Conservative Group of Northamptonshire County Council, and Mr Robert Haegate, Jr, read the lessons.

Dinner

Army Board
The Sultan of Brunei was guest of honour at an Army Board dinner held last night at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Mr Jeremy Hanley, Minister for the Armed Forces, was the host. Among those present were:
The High Commissioner for Brunei, HM High Commissioner to Brunei, Lord Weinstock, Sir Denis Thatcher, General Sir Peter Inge, General Sir John Learmont, Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Duffell, Marshal of the RAF Sir Peter Harding, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, General Sir Brian Kenny, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, Major-General Michael Walker, Major-General Robert Corbett, Major-General Jack Deverell, Major-General Mike Jackson, Major-General David Pank, Lieutenant-Colonel Hamon Massey, Lieutenant-Colonel Haji Ibrahim Haji Jumahat, Mr Thorold Masefield, Mr Christopher Hanbury and Mr Max Hastings.

Latest wills

Sir Stephen Hugh Middleton, 9th Bart, of Belsay, Northumberland, left estate valued at £2,130,765 net.

Mr Israel Raine, of London NW3, left estate valued at £4,626,624 net.

Mr Denys Lyonel Tollemache, of Newnham, Basingstoke, Hampshire, late merchant banker, left estate valued at £6,029,384 net.

Today's royal engagements

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, will read the Christmas lesson at Eton College at 5.55.

Luncheon

Earl Nelson
Earl Nelson entertained members of the Royal Naval Association at luncheon yesterday at the House of Lords. Admiral Sir Ernle Pope, vice-patron, and Captain J.W. Rayner, general secretary, were among those present.

Church services tomorrow

Fourth Sunday in Advent
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 Sung Euch, Missa S Joannis de Deo (Haydn), Adam lay ybounden (Ord), The Dean; 3.15 E, Responses (Shephard), Exsurge Domine (Byrd); 6.30 Sermon and Compline, The Precentor
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Sung Euch, Verse (Decani), Prelude on St Peter (Darke), Creed (Darke in E), One morning very early (Baxter), Noel in G (Daquin), Archdeacon David Turnbull; 3.30 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Communion, Theme, The Annunciation, Canon Peter Southwell-Sander; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Simplicitas (Plainsong), Canon David Knight; 6 Choral E, Responses (Morley), The Second Service (Tomkins), Dixit Maria (Hasler), The Provost.
CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany, Erasmus Chapel; 8 HC; 10 Choral M, Benedicite (Dyson in F), Canon Owen Conway; 11.20 Choral Euch, 3.30 Carol Service, Comfort ye - every valley (Handel), Benedictus (Dyson in F), As Jospeh was awaking (Terry), The Magnificat (Dyson in F), Gabriel's Message, A Carol for Mary (Whitten), Sweet was the song (Vann), Amen (Naylor); 6.30 E, Canon Owen Conway.
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 Communion; 10.30 Cathedral Euch, Schubert in G, The Angel Gabriel (Basque Noel), Very Rev John Petty; 3 German Lutherans; 5.30 E, The Angel Gabriel (Basque Noel), Responses (Leighton), Collegium Regale (Howells), A maiden most gentle (ar Cartel).
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Benedicite in B flat, Benedictus in C, Christ is the morning star (Lloyd), Canon Pedley; 11.15 HC, Sumsion in F, Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd), The Precentor; 2 Carols for Christmas, BBC Radio Cleveland broadcast; 4 E, O Clavis David, Evening Service in five parts (Weelkes), The Angel Gabriel (Basque Carol); 4.45 Lighting of the Christmas Tree & Blessing of the Crib.
ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Beata Viscera (Anon), Rev Dr G Pattison, Toccata in D minor (Bach); 3.45 E, Preces (Tallis), O Clavis David, Mundy in three parts, Salve Regina (Cavalli), Fugue in E minor (Bach).
LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in E, Hail Blessed Virgin Mary (arr Wood), Canon Henry Evans; 4 Freemason's Carol Service.
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Stanford in C & F, Adam lay y-bounden (Warlock), The Precentor; 11.15 M, Responses (Rose), Benedicite in D minor (Marshall); 5.45 E (said); 7.30 Radio Lincolnshire Carol Service.
LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Walton), Jubilate (Walton), O Living bread (Whitlock), Preb Bernard Maddox; 3.30 E, Responses (Leighton), Jesus Service (Mathias), Hymn to the Virgin (Britten).
LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Litany; 8 Holy Euch, Rev J F Redvers Harris; 9 Parish Euch, Rev J F Redvers Harris; 11 S Euch, Darke in A minor, Creed (Shaw), Rejoice in the Lord alway (Anon), Rev J C Buttimore; 12.15 Holy Euch; 3.30 Choral E, St Mark's Service (Near), The Angel Gabriel (Basque, arr Lloyd); 6.30 Parish Euch, The Dean.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Orbis factor (Plainsong), Hail Blessed Virgin Mary (arr Wood), The Angel Gabriel (Basque, arr Pettman), Canon Ivor Smith-Cameron; 3 Cathedral Carol Service.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, The Annunciation, Missa Brevis (Wills), O Christ O Blessed Lord (Wagner), Very Rev R Lewis; 11.30 M, Responses (Smith), Holroyd in D, Stanford in B flat, Justorum animae (Stanford); 3 E, Stanford in B flat, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), Preb W G Marlow.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 Abbey Euch; 3 E; 5.45 Organ Recital, Martin Baker; 6.30 ES, Sister Hilary Makin.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 Mass; 10.30 SM; 10 MP; 2.30 Organ Recital, Iain Simcock; 3.30 Solemn V with Advent Carols.
YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch; 11.30 M; 4 E, Wood in F, Vigilate (Byrd), Ven Leslie Stanbridge; 7 St Michael-le-Belfrey Carol Service.
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 11 Choral Euch.; 3.30 Choral E, Sumsion in A, Responses (Ferial), O Clavis David, Vox dicentis, clama (Naylor).
ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10 (Family), 6 LM; 11.30 SM, Mass in A minor (Casciolini), Ave Maria (Schubert), Fr Anthony Barratt; 4 Carol Service.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC, Responses (Morley); 10.30 M, Benedicite in B flat (Sumsion), Benedicite in B flat (Stanford), Rev Andrew Macintosh; 11.30 HC, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Rorate coeli (Byrd); 3.15 E, Dyson in F, Fantasia on Christmas Carols (Vaughan Williams), Rev John Halliburton; 6.30 Organ Recital, John Stott, La Nativite du Seigneur (Messiaen), Wreathlaying at Turner Memorial.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, Dundee: 8 HC; 9.40 Sung Communion; 11 Choral Euch; 6.30 Cathedral Carol Service.
ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP, 11 HM; 6 E & B, Bevin in the Dorian Mode, Ave maria (Stravinsky), Rev P McGeary.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 Communion Service; 11 Rev Stephen Wookey; 6.30 Rev Dr John Stott.
AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1: 9.45 Sunday School; 11 Worship, Rev James Schmidt.
THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa O regem coeli (Palestrina), Exultate Deo (Scarlatti), Magnificat quinti toni (Lassus).
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev Stanley Hood; 6.30 Service of Nine Lessons & Carols.
FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: Carol & Christingle Service; 9.45 HC; 11 Morning Service, Rev Paul Hulme.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, Rev Dr R John Tudor; 6.30 The Westminster Christingle, Rev Dr R John Tudor.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev Ronald T Englund; 2 Swahili Christmas Service; 7 Bach V, Cantata 1, Brandenburg Concerto No 1 in F.
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M & HC; 6.30 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.
ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch; 6.30 Choral E, Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.
ST CLEMENT DANES: 9, 12.15 HC; 11 Nine Lessons & Carols in Aid of St Christopher's Fellowship.
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Sunday School Christmas Presentation; 6.30 Lessons & Carols.
ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM.
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch; 6 Service of Nine Lessons & Carols.
ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch; 6 Carol Service.
ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 10 Family Communion; 11 S Euch & Holy Baptism; 3.30 Festival of Lessons & Carols.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch; 6 Service of Nine Lessons & Carols.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.45 Euch, The Vicar; 11.30 Visitors to London Service, Rev John Pridmore; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev Dr Joyce Bennett; 6.30 ES, Rev John Pridmore.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 9.45, 7 LM; 11 HM; 6 Solemn E & B.
ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch; 6 Carol Service.
ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 Choral Euch & Sermon; 3.15 Festival of Lessons & Carols.
ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch.
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 11 Christmas Carol Service, The Dean of The Chapels Royal & The Chaplain.
CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 Festival Service of Lessons & Carols.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M; 3.30 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols (by ticket).
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch.
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 Service of Lessons & Carols.
THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP; 3 The Carol Service.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: Theme, The Annunciation, 11 Festival of Lessons & Carols; 12 HC; 6 Festival of Lessons & Carols.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000
FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

Let the heavens praise your wonders, Lord; let the assembly of the angels exalt your faithfulness. Psalm 89 : 5 (REB)

BIRTHS

ALBERTS - On 11th December 1993, to Adriana (née Basile-Giannini) and Michael, a daughter, Elena Alexandra Lydia.
BLACKETT/PAWLIKOWSKA - On December 8th 1993, to David and Teresa, a son, Luke Xavier.
CONYNGHAM-HYNES - On December 7th 1993, to Lindy and Phil, a daughter, Rebecca Iris Valentine, a sister for Damien.
GERRARD - On 7th November, to Janet (née Fearon) and Michael, a daughter, Elizabeth Mary.
KEEGAN - To Vivien (née Astuman) and Paul, a son, Gabriel Thomas Seymour, on December 6th. A brother for Abaigael.
MARTIN - On 9th December, to Anne (née Jolly) and Colin, a son, Alec William.
MONRO - On 18th November, to Caroline and Duncan, a daughter, Florence Ruth, a sister for Georgie.
NEVOLA-CLARK - On Friday 17th December, to Fabrizio and Antonia, a daughter, Clara Francesca.
NOYCE - On December 9th at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, to Sharon and Nigel, a son Timothy Michael a brother for Helena.
STEVENSON-HAMILTON - On 15th December, to Jo (née Pidden) and Hamish, a daughter, Louisa Kate, a sister for Jamie.

MARRIAGES

ATKINSON:JONES - The marriage of Christopher James Atkinson and Tracy Jones took place on 28th November 1993. Both families were surprised but delighted and their congratulations to the newly married couple.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

BRUNDAN - Gwenyth and Walter celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary today. Now living in Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

CLIFTON-MOGG:FELTON - On 18th December 1943 at St Gabriel's Church, Warwick Square, London SW1, Alan Clifton-Mogg to Eileen Felton.

DEATHS

ALEXANDER - Suddenly on 14th December 1993, Prof. Peter Alexander. Interment at Butterleigh Church, 21st December at 12 noon. Enquiries to Leroy Funeral Service Exeter (0392) 88536.
BEHRMAN - On December 12th, Doris (née Engelbert) aged 89. Widow of Dr. Simon Behrman, beloved mother and grandmother.
BESWICK - Edward Frank on December 15th aged 91 years. Father of Colin. Requiem at Norwich Cathedral on Wednesday December 22nd at 11.30 am followed by private cremation. No flowers please but donations if desired to the Friends of Norwich Cathedral c/o Peter Taylor Funeral Services, 86 Unthank Road, Norwich NR2 2PE.
BIRKBECK - On December 15th, suddenly but peacefully at home in Harrogate, Rosanne Elizabeth Wyatt Birkbeck, aged 74 years. A beloved mother, sister and aunt. Service at Beckwithshaw Church on Wednesday 22nd December at 2.45 pm followed by private cremation. No flowers please, donations in memory to The Samaritans, 5 Mount Parade, Harrogate, HG1 1BX.
CHANDOS-POLE - Lieutenant Colonel John, C.V.O., O.B.E. of Newnham Hall, peacefully in hospital on December 17th 1993, beloved husband of the late Sylvia, much loved by Venetia, Deirdre and Ann and their families. Family funeral. Memorial Service to be announced. Donations if desired to the Northamptonshire Association for the Blind, Wardington Court, Welford Road, Northampton.
CLARK - On Wednesday December 15th 1993, passed away peacefully in hospital, Major Hugh Davison Clark, M.B.E., M.C., aged 89 years. Funeral Service takes place on Tuesday December 21st at Barham Crematorium at 4pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Parkinson's Disease Society c/o Girlings, Margate Crown Chambers, Broad Street, Margate, Kent. All enquiries to A. Welch & Sons, 94 Station Road, Herne Bay, Kent, (0227) 374995.
COLLINS - Alfred Allan (retired Solicitor and retired H.M. Coroner) aged 97 years of Scunthorpe. Dearly loved husband of the late Margaret and a loving father and grandfather. Funeral Service at St Lawrence's Church, Scunthorpe, on Wednesday December 22nd at 2.15 pm.
DALE - On December 14th 1993, suddenly at Poole Hospital, Francis Mark (Frank) of Tarrant Keyneston, Dorset, aged 83 years. Dearly loved father of Janet and Richard, grandfather of Dagfinn, Steiner, Melinda, Steven and Gregory. Funeral Service at The Parish Church, Tarrant Keyneston, on Tuesday 21st December at 11.30 am followed by cremation at Poole Crematorium at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired for OXFAM may be forwarded to Colin J. Close Funeral Service, 1B Salisbury Street, Blandford, Dorset, tel: (0258) 453133.
DODD - On December 15th, Evelyn Mary, aged 83 years, formerly of East Sheen, London, widow of Sir Edward James Dodd, mother of Rosemary and David. The funeral service will take place at Oakley Wood Crematorium, Bishop Tachbrook, Leamington Spa, on Wednesday 22nd December at 12 noon. Flowers may be sent to Settin Smith & Co., 74 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham.
ELIOTT LOCKHART - William, Lt. Col., QVO Corps of Guides, peacefully on December 16th, aged 87. Beloved husband of Ann and dearly loved by his children Alastair, Susan and Peter and his nine grandchildren. Family flowers only. Donations to All Saints Church, Biddenden, Kent.
FURBANK - Ronald Ashley on December 16th 1993, aged 70, peacefully at St Julia's Hospice, Hayle, Cornwall. An end to all that Jazz. Funeral at Penmount Crematorium, Truro, on Wednesday 22nd December at 1.40 pm. Family flowers only - donations if desired to St Julia's Hospice.
GILES - On December 14th 1993, very suddenly at home, Dr. Henry McCalmont aged 72. Beloved husband of the late Evelyn, dearly loved father of Simon, Katherine, Alison and Emma. Dear father-in-law of Liz and devoted grandfather of Laura and Victoria. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Selly Oak, Birmingham, on Wednesday December 22nd at 10.45 am. No flowers please, donations if desired payable either to St Mary's Hospice or Acorns Childrens Hospice, c/o V. Morton and Sons Ltd., 705 Bristol Road South, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2JT by 24th January 1994.
GREEN - John Warrender of Westley Court, Cookley, formerly of Chaddesley Corbett, has been granted his wish and mercifully released on 16th December 1993. Adored best friend and loving husband of Ilse, dearest and much loved father of Margaret, Barbara, Andrew and Jennifer, respected father-in-law and a dear brother and grandfather. Funeral Service at St Cassians Church, Chaddesley Corbett, on Tuesday 21st December at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations gratefully received c/o Co-operative Funeral Services, Lion Square, Bromsgrove Street, Kidderminster, in aid of Lucy Baldwin Hospital (Wilden Ward). Home for the last 8 months.
HARTWELL - Sir Brodrick Hartwell Bt. of Little Dale, Lavendon, Bucks., aged 84 years, passed peacefully away on December 14th 1993 after a short illness borne with immense courage and dignity. Service at Bedford Crematorium, December 22nd 3.30 pm. He leaves a widow Mollie and son Anthony.
MARSHALL - On Friday 17th December, peacefully at Pilham Hall, Gainsborough, Major Henry Dickenson M.B.E. T.D. D.L., son of the late Major H.D. Marshall, Chairman and Managing Director of Marshall Sons & Co. Ltd. Funeral at Pilham Church on Tuesday 11th January at 11 am.
RHYS JONES - Mary, beloved mother of David, Martin and Anna, died peacefully at home on December 16th. Funeral Service and cremation at the Main Chapel, Worthing Crematorium, on Thursday 23rd December at 1.20 pm. Flowers to W. Bryder & Sons, Tillington, Near Petworth, West Sussex.
WILKERSON - On Thursday 16th December 1993, peacefully in her sleep, at home, Dorothy Mary Wilkerson, aged 81 years, of Barley, Royston, Herts. A much loved wife, mother and grandmother. Funeral service private please. Thanksgiving Service to be announced later. Family flowers only please but donations gratefully accepted for Barley Parish Church c/o S. Newling & Son Funeral Directors, 122 Mill Road, Royston, Herts. SG8 7AJ to whom all enquiries should be made on tel: (0763) 242575.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

CASADO - In proud and lasting memory of Col. Casado last President of the Council of Defence and C-in-C of the Spanish Republic, died on December 18th 1968. A great soldier, patriot and lover of democracy and humanity. Rafael Calzada.
EZE - In loving and unfading memory of beloved Captain Ikenna (Ike), suddenly on December 18th 1989. 'Loving Shepherd of thy sheep, keep him Lord in safety keep, nothing can thy power withstand, none can pluck him from his hand'. Sadly missed by his wife Louie, the Broad-Davies family, his mother, brother sisters and nephews.
HACKER - In loving memory of George Hacker of Burnham-on-Sea, died 21st November 1993, beloved husband of Lena and father of Donald and Roger.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity of Miss Elizabeth Florence Theodosia Royds in connection with People's Dispensary for Sick Animals. The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57/60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference number DGY-208217-A/4-LAO-LRN.

TRUSTEE ACTS

In the estate of Franz Herzog deceased.
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 27 of the Trustee Act, 1925, that any person having a claim against or an interest in the estate of Franz Herzog late of 15 Westbourne Park Road London W2 who died on the 3rd day of January 1993, is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the undersigned, the Solicitors for the Administrators before the 28th day of February 1994 after which date the Administrators will distribute the estate among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice and will not as respects the property so distributed, be liable to any person of whose claim or interest they shall not then have had notice.
DATED this 13th day of December 1993
Nabarro Nathanson
Messrs Nabarro Nathanson
50 Stratton Street
LONDON W1X 5LF
Solicitors for the Administrators

PHIPPS, THOMAS GEORGE late of 37 Abbotsbury Close, London W14 8EQ. Commercial Art Studio Proprietor, died 24th October 1993. Particulars to Crockers, 10 Gough Square, London, EC4A 3NJ before 1st March 1994. Crockers. 8 Nov. 1993.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
BOOKIN HUNTER JOHN of Highwood Farm, Ringwood, Hampshire died on 8th November 1993 particulars to Allison & Humphreys Solicitors of 40 Artillery Lane, Bishopsgate, London E1 7LS before 21st February 1994.

DREW, HAROLD ERNEST of 40 St Aidans Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 died on 18th July 1993 particulars to Hepburns Solicitors of Blenheim House, Blenheim Grove, Peckham, London SE15 4QX before 21st February 1994

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 0010156 of 1993
IN THE MATTER OF CRANSWICK PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 18th day of November 1993 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the Reduction of the Share Premium Account of the Company by £4,000,000.
AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 19th day of January 1994.
Any director of Shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the reduction of Share Premium Account of the Company should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the under-mentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated this 14 day of December 1993.
Rollit Farrell & Bladon, Solicitors Wilberforce Court, High Street, Hull HU1 1YJ
(Ref: SJT/RNG)
Solicitors to the above-named Company

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 0010162 of 1993
re: COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE COMPANY plc
- and -
re: THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 13 December 1993 confirming the cancellation of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company amounting to £603,993,911 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 14 December 1993.
Dated 14 December 1993
LINKLATERS & PAINES
Solicitors for the Company

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 009439 of 1993
re: WEST MERCHANT BANK LIMITED
- and -
re: THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 6 December 1993 confirming the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company from £19,432,818 to £7,282,818 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 9 December 1993.
Dated 14 December 1993
LINKLATERS & PAINES
Solicitors for the Company

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 0010090 of 1993
IN THE MATTER OF CARADON PLC
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 8 December 1993 confirming the cancellation of the share premium account of the above-named Company was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 9 December 1993.
Dated the 18th day of December 1993.
Freshfields, 65 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1HS
Tel: 071 936 4000 Ref: IKT/PJW
Solicitors for the above-named Company

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 009440 of 1993
re: ZENECA GROUP PLC
- and -
re: THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 6 December 1993 confirming the cancellation of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company amounting to £1,253,764,140 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 9 December 1993.
Dated 14 December 1993
LINKLATERS & PAINES
Solicitors for the Company

IN THE MATTER OF P C G FLOWERS LIMITED - IN ADMINISTRATION
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Creditors in the above matter is to be held at the Forte Post House Hotel, 1 Mayrick Road, The Lansdowne, Bournemouth BH1 2PR on the 20th day of December 1993 at 2.00 pm in the afternoon. To consider my proposals under section 23(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing a Creditors' committee.
P D Bayliss MA, ACA
The Administrator

Notice of Appointment of Liquidator
Voluntary Winding Up
Pursuant to Section 109 of the Insolvency Act 1986
Company Number: 940246
Name of company: S.E Hobbs & Co Limited
Nature of business: Electrical Contractors
Address of registered office: Treviot House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1JQ
Type of Liquidation: Voluntary
Liquidator(s): Richard Andrew Segal, A Segal & Co, Treviot House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1JQ
Office Holder No: 002686
Date of appointment: 16 December 1993
By whom appointed: The Members & Creditors
Date: 16 December 1993

COMPANY NOTICES

JOHNSON & CAWLEY LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Companies Act 1985 Section 175 that at an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the Above company ("the company") convened and held on the 16th day of December 1993 a Special Resolution was passed:
1. Approving a form of contract providing for the purchase by the Company of 26,000 of its ordinary shares of £1.00 for the aggregate sum of £108,000 and
2. Authorising the payment of £108,000 of the sum out of capital
The Statutory Declaration of the Directors of the Company and the Auditors report required by the Companies Act 1985 Section 173 (5) are available for inspection at the registered office of the Company at 190 Nantwich Road, Crewe, Cheshire.
Any creditor of the Company may at the time within the five weeks immediately following the 16th December 1993 apply to the Court under the Companies Act 1985 Section 176 for an Order cancelling the Resolution or for other relief.
Signed ???
P E Peters - Secretary
16th December 1993

ANNOUNCEMENTS

METCALFE - Helen, for new address Call 071 377 5591 (Days) 081 672 5126 (Eves)

British Heart Foundation
TAKE HEART. WE'RE HERE
Make a donation to help fund our vital research.
BHF, 14 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 4DH.
Or ring 071 935 0185.

We will never forget you
Please Remember
A donation, a covenant, a legacy or through the Payroll Giving Scheme to The Army Benevolent Fund will help soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families in distress
THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND
DEPT. TT, 41 QUEEN'S GATE LONDON SW7 5HR

Thank you from the RNLI
It is your support through legacies and voluntary contributions that allows us to meet our daily running costs of £100,000 and provide our lifeboatmen with the boats and equipment they need.
For full details on legacies, contact:
The Director, Dept DT, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1HZ, or phone (0202) 671133.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Animal Health Trust
For over 50 years the Animal Health Trust has been improving the diagnosis and care of the distressing and painful diseases and injuries which afflict all animals. If you would like to know more about the work of the Trust or ways in which you could help through donations, membership or legacies, please write to :
Johnny Fountain, The Animal Health Trust, PO Box 5, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 7DW.
Registered charity no 209642

BALLOON FLIGHTS

FLY over Georgian Bath, with Heritage Balloons. Gift Vouchers - 1994. CAA approved. Sales & enquiries 0225 318747

GIFT VOUCHERS BY PHONE
Champagne Balloon Flights over the beautiful Kent countryside. CAA Approved. Free Brochure. Zebra Ballooning.
0622 842781 or 081 398 3991

FLATSHARE

KENTISH TOWN newly dec dbl rm own bath share kit a/rnd & gdn 15 mins City suit n/s prof £70pw excl 071 267 3827
TOWER BRIDGE 1 bedroom in super luxury flat. Prof. £80 pw. 071 231 4243.

FOR SALE

MINK coat size 16, wild mink, 'Chevron' style, dark honey colour, value £5800, sell £2000. E'burgh 031 447 0829.
PEARL necklace - certified natural. Very beautiful & rare. 18" graduated a/a. Diamond-set gold clasp. Tel: 0981 251050
ROCHE Beauvoire Italian cream leather 3 piece suite. Over £5,000 new-open to offers. Central London. Tel:Peter Evans W071-929 0001/H081-871 1810
SABLE swinger coat. Beautifully styled & unworn £2,800. Valuation for £7,500. 0384 836849.

GIFTS

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OBITUARIES

SIR ROBERT REID

Sir Robert Reid, CBE, chairman of the British Railways Board, 1983-90, died yesterday aged 72. He was born on February 7, 1921.



ROBERT REID was only the second career railwayman to have become chairman of British Rail. A graduate recruit, he began as traffic apprentice with the London and North Eastern Railway (LNER) in Edinburgh in 1947, the last year before railway nationalisation. His ascent to senior management was far from meteoric; when he retired at 69 in 1990, he had spent half of his 42 years service in humdrum jobs (like goods agent and district passenger manager) throughout the system. It took him 20 years to become a divisional manager and six more before he was a general manager (with Southern Region).

But his steady climb through so much of the management hinterland equipped him with a unique knowledge of what needed to be done when he at last had the power to change the system. Unlike outsider chairmen, he always knew, as one admirer somewhat crudely observed, "who the bullshitters were".

Temperamentally, and in almost every other way, Reid was totally unlike his extrovert predecessor, Sir Peter Parker, who elevated him to the board soon after becoming chairman in 1976. Reid was BR's first ever marketing member, an indication of the unimportance traditionally attached by railways (not only in this country) to their customers. Reid was not a natural or particularly effective marketeer, but he came into his own when, in 1980, he was made chief executive of the railways, with overall control of the BR network.

He was 59, an age at which many senior BR executives were increasingly taking early retirement. Under Reid many more did so, as he ceaselessly set about pruning and reshaping BRs outdated and over-manned management structure.

At a stroke, he abolished an entire tier of management (Divisions). The victims of his continuous and persistent efficiency drives wrily enjoyed the sombre pun that Reid fired people with enthusiasm. BR had had more than 800,000 employees at nationalisation; when Reid retired the number had fallen to 120,000.

Reid made BR by far the most productive and cost-effective of the world's major railways. He did this by actually exceeding the tough targets he had negotiated with the Government on his appointment as chairman. Instead of being increased, as his predecessor had wanted, public subsidies for rail travel were drastically reduced, with a view to their being phased out altogether. To achieve this rigorous advance towards profitability, Reid instituted a major reorganisation, introducing a management system of his own making — sectorisation, to replace the functional and regional pattern under which personal accountability had always been blurred and financial discipline barely existed. For Reid personal accountability was everything, and inevitably more and more heads rolled.

Partly because of this, and partly because of his intimidating manner, not many of his immediate subordinates actively enjoyed working for him. Those who did recognised the strengths of his apparent determination not to be loved and recalled the effect that the early death of his wife and his experiences as a prisoner-of-war might well have had on him.

Robert Basil Reid was born in India in 1921, the son of Sir Robert Neil Reid, KCSI, KCIE, a Governor of Assam and Bengal. He was educated at Malvern and went to read history at Brasenose College, Oxford in 1939. During the war he served in the Royal Tank Regiment as a tank commander in the battles in the Western Desert. But in 1941 he was captured by the Germans and spent the next four years as a prisoner in Italy and then Germany.

Returning when the war was over, he was tempted for a moment to remain in the Army. But instead he took his degree in 1947 and then took a job as an assistent yardmaster with LNER in Edinburgh.

For the next 20 years he was shunted from one managerial job to another on both the freight and passenger sides of the business, mainly in Scotland and Yorkshire. His performance in charge of the all-important Southern Region proved his abilities and brought him to the BR board in 1977.

From the outset of his chairmanship Reid was determined to end the public discord between BR and the Government which had grown during his predecessor's regime. While ready to speak his mind in private, he declined to play any public part in the controversies which were to rage over transport policy: policy-making was the role of ministers, his job was to run the railways. It does not work out as easily as that in practice, and Reid was content to rely on his vigilant public relations department to exert the pressures and transmit the messages that he himself refrained from expressing. Rail privatisation was a case in point; highly dubious of its merits, at any rate for the foreseeable future, Reid bitterly resented the amount of management time (to say nothing of the vast consultancy fees) which had to be spent on studying what he regarded as inane schemes of fragmentation.

An intensely shy man, he always sought to avoid the limelight. When he finally broke cover during the national rail strike of 1989, he was impressive; despite some verbal infelicities, his style, when he was interviewed, compared favourably with that of some of his subordinates who had been performing unconvincingly while he had been keeping his head down.

Reid's last year in office was clouded by the Clapham rail disaster which reflected, unjustifiably as the official enquiry subsequently established, on the cost-cutting measures with which his chairmanship had been so strongly identified.

Many observers had thought it was a pity that he remained publicly silent on such major topics as finance for the Channel tunnel rail link and other major infrastructure investments. However, within weeks of his retirement, his exasperation with government attitudes at last got the better of him and in a speech to the Chartered Institute of Transport he questioned their wisdom, adversely comparing UK policies with Continental ones. Though his remarks were either temperate or heavily coded, journalists and critics of official policy seized the opportunity and described his speech as a dramatic outburst against the Government. Though he professed surprise at this reaction, he was inwardly gratified, while at the same time refusing all invitations to amplify his views. The hullabaloo was thus soon over. In recent privatisation controversies he remained stonily silent but, as the son of a distinguished public servant, was privately appalled by what he saw as the Government's root and branch detestation of the public sector.

During his six and a half years as BR chairman, Reid served under five Secretaries of State for Transport and had no illusions about the extent to which British nationalised industries have always been so peculiarly politicised. How to run them in a more businesslike manner was his great preoccupation. Even though, when he left in 1990, too many trains still failed to run on time and other standards of service quality were still only patchily attained, Reid could be said to have done more than any of his predecessors to make BR more competitive and consumer-oriented, and to bring to an end the long era of under investment, neglect, demoralisation and decay that has plagued public transport in this country.

Reid was appointed CBE in 1980 and knighted in 1985. In 1984 he was made an honorary Fellow of Brasenose College. He was also made an honorary Doctor of Engineering at Bristol University in 1990.

A keen golfer, Reid was also very fond of sailing, shooting, fishing (particularly with his devoted friend Nicholas Ridley) and mountaineering in Italy. He was walking in the Dolomites when he received the telephone call from London which offered him the chairmanship in 1983.

In 1951 he married Isobel Jean McLachlan. She died in 1976. They had a son and daughter who survive him.

ROY VERNON

Roy Vernon, Wales and Everton footballer, died after a long illness on December 4 aged 56. He was born on April 14, 1937.



A TALL, rangy inside-left, with a startling burst of speed and a fine left foot, Roy Vernon was an outstanding member of the Everton Football League Championship winning team of 1962-63. That success, in which his 24 goals played an important part, was the highlight of an excellent but frustrating career with Wales, Blackburn, Everton and Stoke.

A prolific goalscorer, with a fierce shot in both feet, the sheer power belying his slim frame, he scored 49 goals in 131 League matches for Blackburn and 110 in 199 games for Everton, a ratio of more than one every two games, a remarkable record for an inside forward. He won 32 caps for his country, scoring eight goals.

For a long time it seemed as if the game's greatest honours would pass him by; he left Blackburn Rovers, his first club, at the beginning of 1960, the year they reached the FA Cup Final, and although he went with Wales to the 1958 World Cup Finals, he was kept out of the side in those more stereotyped days by Ivor Allchurch, making only one appearance, at outside right, where he was patently miscast.

Allchurch, one of Wales's greatest ever talents, was to prove a stumbling block for much of Vernon's career, and it was only for a brief but fruitful spell in the mid-1960s, when Allchurch was at the veteran stage, that the Wales selectors employed them together.

Vernon was born in Hollywell, and joined Blackburn from school, turning professional in 1954, and making his debut the following season. His first game was on the right wing, but he quickly established himself at inside left as an integral part of perhaps the club's best post-war team, at least before the present side. Vernon fitting into a forward line alongside Bryan Douglas, Peter Dobing, Derek Dougan and Ally McLeod, a line as full of character as ability.

But the team failed to realise its potential, and when Johnny Carey, the manager, moved to Everton, he soon returned to sign Vernon for the then considerable fee of £27,000 in February 1960. "When I left the one thing I said was, 'don't sell Vernon'," Carey recalled long after, but his advice went unheeded.

Carey could not win the championship, and Harry Catterick replaced him to do so in 1962-63 with a side containing Billy Bingham, Jimmy Gabriel, who became the club's caretaker manager on Saturday, and Alec Young "the golden vision," whose craft made so many of Vernon's goals.

They did not build immediately on the championship and Vernon was allowed to leave in 1965, joining Stoke for £40,000 to take part in that club's revival with a team of distinguished veterans, including Stanley Matthews and Vernon's old Blackburn colleague Peter Dobing. He made one appearance for Halifax before re-joining Douglas and Clayton at Great Harwood.

MAURICE BESSY

Maurice Bessy, former artistic director of the Cannes Film Festival, died in Paris on November 15 aged 82. He was born on December 10, 1910.



DURING his long career Maurice Bessy came to be regarded as the "memory" of the French cinema and it was not surprising that he was appointed in his sixties as the *délégué general*, or artistic director of the Cannes Film Festival. He held the post between 1971 and 1977 when the festival was still recovering from the shock waves of the 1968 upheavals, a period when the festival's *raison d'être* was challenged by left-wingers. Bessy put the festival back on course and instituted a system where he and other members of the selection committee chose the films to be shown, while at the same time opening the festival to a wider variety of films out of competition.

He was also renowned as the co-author with Raymond Chirat of the monumental seven-volume, *Histoire du Cinéma Français* (1986). One of his colleagues described him as a "meteor, a man full of joie de vivre, kindness, and intelligence."

Bessy began his career as a journalist and at the age of 28 was made editor of the mass-circulation film weekly, *Cinémonde*. He was a leader of the school of young, independent critics, and was co-founder in 1937 of the Prix Louis Delluc, named in honour of one of France's most noted early critics, who was also a director.

The first recipient of the prize, which came to be awarded annually at the Cannes festival, was Jean Renoir for his *Les Bas Fonds*.

Bessy later championed Renoir's *La Règle du Jeu* (The Rules of the Game), a 1939 masterpiece with conventions similar to those of the American Western by the man later recognised as one of France's greatest directors. Bessy subsequently co-authored a book with Claude Beylie on Renoir's work.

From 1946 he edited the bulletin of the Cannes festival while also editing the review *Paris-Théâtre, Une Semaine à Paris*, and notably, *Film Français*. In the 1970s his period as the veritable head of the Cannes festival enabled him to pick both the films and juries.

It was an epoch which encouraged the *film d'auteur* and then coincided with a high point of the Italian cinema. In 1973 Elio Petri's *La classe operaia va in paradiso* (The Working Class Goes To Heaven), and Francesco Rossi's *Il Caso Mattei* (The Mattei Affair) shared the Palme d'Or, the festival's top prize.

In 1977, when Roberto Rossellini was president of the jury, the prize went to Paolo and Vittorio Taviani's *Padre Padrone* (Father, Master). Other winners of the top prize during Bessy's reign included Joseph Losey's *The Go Between* (1971).

Jerry Schatzberg's *Scarecrow* (USA) and Alan Bridges's *The Hireling* (Britain) shared the prize in 1973. Francis Ford Coppola's *The Conversation* (USA) won the following year and, in 1976, it was the turn of American director Martin Scorsese with *Taxi Driver*.

Bessy was also a scriptwriter as young man, notably for Julien Duvivier's *Voici Le Temps des Assassins* (1956), and wrote many books on the cinema and its stars. He devoted works to Charlie Chaplin, Orson Welles, Eric von Stroheim, and the French star, Bourvil. He was also author of a number of novels. He remained president of the jury for the Prix Louis Delluc, awarded to the best *film d'auteur*, the French conception of film-making which gives pre-eminence to the "true" director as opposed to the script-oriented director. His innovations for the festival included prizes for films on other art forms, contemporary films, and films devoted to the cinema.

He is credited with removing the choice of films from national selection committees and placing it in the hands of the Cannes festival organisers. This move generally raised the level of films on show.

He is survived by his wife and their adopted son.

ALAN CLARE

Alan Clare, jazz pianist, died in London on November 29 aged 72. He was born in London on May 31, 1921.

WHENEVER Frank Sinatra was visiting London a request went out for Alan Clare to play at the singer's parties. Tony Bennett paid Clare a similar compliment. The pianist could plainly lay claim to a place among the most graceful jazz pianists this country has produced. Yet his reputation was largely confined to a relatively small circle of musicians and discerning enthusiasts in London.

The general public knew him better, perhaps, as a foil to Spike Milligan on stage and television. He was also renowned as a cocktail pianist at West End nightspots, restaurants and private functions. Clare self-depreciatingly referred to this type of work as "munch music".

As a young boy, Alan George Clare was introduced to the jazz piano by a jazz-loving uncle who had a collection of gramophone records. Clare listened assiduously to such 1930s' giants as Fats Waller and Teddy Wilson and by the time he was 11 had trained himself to copy, in a rudimentary way, their fleet-fingered stride technique. At around the same age he found work playing in a band at a social club. At 16 he moved on to the London nightclub circuit.

One formative experience was seeing his idol, Fats Waller, perform at bottle parties at the Nest Club, one of the focal points for visiting American musicians in the prewar years. Later Clare's friend George Shearing, introduced him to the recordings of another American virtuoso, Art Tatum. Overwhelmed, Clare worked at blending the rhythmic intensity of these players with the lush harmonic textures he relished in the work of classical composers such as Ravel, Debussy and Rachmaninov.

In 1941 he began a long association with the violinist Stephane Grappelli when they performed at Le Suivi. Clare later served in a Scottish regiment during the war. (Ever the musician, he was struck by the similarity between military drumming and traditional African techniques.) By the 1950s he was making a number of solo and group recordings. Among them was *Jazz Around The Clock*, made in 1958 with a group featuring up-and-coming players such as the drummer Tony Crombie, reeds player Tony Coe and the bassist Lennie Bush.

It was during the era of *The Goon Show* that he met Spike Milligan. They subsequently worked together extensively, and Clare entered into the anarchic spirit of many of the comedian's later television shows. Peter Sellers was another close friend, once mischievously sending Clare — who disliked electric keyboards — an electric organ as a birthday present.

Meanwhile Clare tended to retreat from the jazz circuit, concentrating increasingly on cocktail work. As he later explained in an extensive interview with the musicians' magazine *Crescendo and Jazz Music*, he felt that his imperfect grasp of sight-reading restricted his opportunities as a session player. He also disclosed that a perfectionist streak contributed to his partial withdrawal: "About once a year, I might find a few bars that surprised me, and I'd think: 'Well, that was all right.' But usually, I was a bit bored with most of the jazz that I played, to tell you the truth, and I got more bored with it as time went on. I thought it was an endless pursuit of an ever-receding goal... I was always a terrible taskmaster; because you could play your head off and once or twice you'd think it was okay — then you'd put a record of Tatum on, which just blasted you out of existence...."

His association with Grappelli continued into the 1970s, on such albums as *To Django* and *Stardust*. In later years he was hampered by illness, and friends noted that he was increasingly prone to bouts of melancholy. Nevertheless he continued with his cocktail work.

In the weeks before his death he had been playing several evenings a week at two Soho jazz venues, Kettner's Restaurant in Romilly Street and the Jazz Room at Pizza Express, Dean Street. Ironically the day of his death also saw the issue of *Holland Park*, a collection of gentle duets recorded some years earlier with Lennie Bush. With a sleeve featuring handsome testimonials by Dudley Moore, George Shearing and Spike Milligan, the album included performances of "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square", "Embraceable You" and a title track inspired by the district in which Clare had lived for many years.

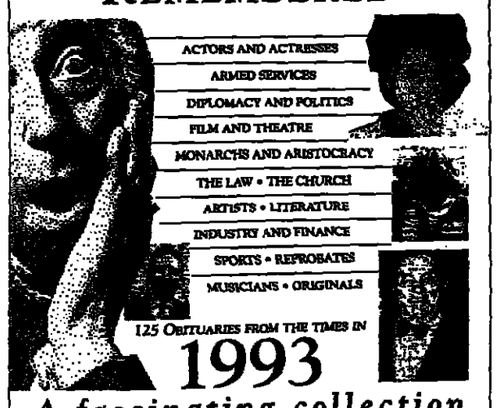
Alan Clare leaves a widow Bloom, and a son and daughter.



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Today: Field Marshal Lord Bramall, KG, 70; Miss Frances Crook, director, Howard League for Penal Reform, 41; Mr David Crossland, chairman, Airtours, 47; Lieutenant-Commander I.E. Fraser, VC, 73; Mr Christopher Fry, dramatist, 86; Pamela Lady Harlech, 59; Professor M.J. Harrison, vice-chancellor and director, Wolverhampton University, 52; Miss Rosemary Leach, actress, 58; Lord Merlyn-Rees, 73; Mr J.C.S. Mott, civil engineer, 67; Mr Albert Pacey, director general, National Criminal Intelligence Service, 55; Miss Annette Page, ballerina, 61; Dr Joyce Reynolds, Roman historian, 75; Mr Keith Richard, Rolling Stones' guitarist, 50; Lord Robens of Woldingham, 83; Miss Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, tennis player, 22; the Earl of Shrewsbury, 41; Mr Steven Spielberg, film maker, 46; Mr Joe Wade, trades unionist, 74; the Right Rev R.K. Williamson, Bishop of Southwark, 61; Mr W.H. Yates, senior partner, Knight Frank and Rutley, 58.

Tomorrow: Sir Antony Buck, QC, former MP, 65; Mr Ross Buckland, chief executive, Unigate, 51; Mr Upamanyu Chatterjee, novelist, 34; Mr Timothy Eggar, MP, 42; Dame Catherine Hall, former general secretary, Royal College of Nursing, 71; Brigadier L.J. Harris, cartographer, 83; Sir Brian Hill, president, Higgs and Hill, 61; Mr Leonard Hirsch, violinist, 91; Mr Syd Little, comedian, 51; Mr Tim Parks, novelist, 39; the Marquess of Queensberry, 64; Mr David Rowe-Beddoe, chairman, Welsh Development Agency, 56; Sir David Rowe-Ham, chartered accountant, 58; Professor Thomas Christopher Smout, Historiographer Royal in Scotland, 60; Sir John Tilney, former MP, 86; Lord Weir, 62.

Middle Temple

D A Hollis QC to be Treasurer for 1994; Mr Justice Waterhouse to be Deputy Treasurer.

ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE SCUTTLED

From Our Special Correspondent

MONTEVIDEO, Dec 17

The Admiral Graf Spee was scuttled this evening a few miles off Montevideo. Just before the Admiral Graf Spee was blown up the German tanker Tacoma and a number of tugs or launches gathered around her. Apparently, they took off most of her crew leaving on board only a few who set the bombs that destroyed her. When they had withdrawn to a safe distance the first explosion occurred. It was followed quickly by two other great explosions and by bursts of flame that showed a number of men struggling in the water. Small craft hurried out from Montevideo intent on rescue. They were joined by two of the warships that had been waiting for the Admiral Graf Spee.

The work of destruction was thorough, the battleship burning fiercely as she went down stern first, rocked by another series of explosions. There is a depth of only 25ft where she sank, so that after she had settled on the bottom her smoke stacks and parts of her superstructure still showed above the water. The Nazi flags flew from her mainmast and stern ...

ON THIS DAY

December 18 1939

The 10,000 tons crippled pocket battleship was trapped in the River Plate with British warships at sea waiting to do battle. She was scuttled in view of a quarter of a million people crowded around Montevideo's harbour. Her captain committed suicide.

CAPTAIN LANGSDORFF'S STORY

MONTEVIDEO, Dec 17

In describing Wednesday's battle yesterday to the port authorities at Montevideo, the German commander did not hesitate to praise the skill and courage of his opponents, who had risked, he said, "more than seemed credible even in the high moments of a battle."

About 6 a.m. on Wednesday, Captain Langsdorff said, he saw the cruiser Exeter in the distance off the Brazilian coast. His own ship was in a critical condition owing to lack of fuel, for he had not been able to make contact with a supply-ship from Montevideo. He therefore attempted to slip away to the south. Suddenly, however, there appeared in his way the Ajax and the Achilles. Being faster than the Admiral Graf Spee, they manoeuvred so as to force the battleship between them and the Uruguayan coast. With too little fuel to allow him to run out to sea, but fearing to run aground in the shallow water, Captain Langsdorff was, he said, "between the devil and the deep blue sea." There was nothing for him to do, but to take up the offensive, and he opened fire on the Exeter with his 11in. guns. The Exeter replied with her 8in. guns, but the Ajax and Achilles were too far away to get into action with their 6in. guns, and before they could get up to him he had severely damaged the Exeter.

When the other cruisers did get within range of the German battleship, however, they inflicted "enormous damage" ...

It was too much to stand, and he headed the Admiral Graf Spee out to sea, hoping to separate his antagonists. But they closed on him. It was then, Captain Langsdorff said, that, taking an extraordinary risk, the Ajax and the Achilles crossed through a smoke-screen which they had laid and got within a mile of the Admiral Graf Spee, scoring effective hits on both sides of the ship ...

THE TIMES TODAY SATURDAY DECEMBER 18 1993

NEWS

Prison warning to drink-drivers

■ Drunken motorists who kill must face years in jail, the Lord Chief Justice ruled, as he increased "over-lenient sentences" imposed on two men whose driving led to three deaths.

Those involved in the worst fatal accidents should be imprisoned for near the maximum ten years, and only in exceptional cases should killer drink-drivers escape jail, Lord Taylor of Gosforth said.....**Page 1**

Loyalists boost peace hopes

■ Ulster's peace initiative inched forward yesterday when Loyalist paramilitaries announced that they were studying the Downing Street declaration carefully and also called for a unionist political forum to discuss the future of the province.....**Page 1**

Torture verdict

Four people, including two women and a teenage boy, were convicted of the murder of Suzanne Capper, who they tortured and then set on fire.....**Page 1**

Big break

Christmas holiday makers are taking a longer than usual break this year, with many people preparing for a two-week absence from work.....**Page 1**

Bosnia hope

The war between Bosnia's Muslims and Croats is near to ending after secret talks masterminded by an American congressman.....**Page 1**

Lib Dem row

Liberal Democrats in Tower Hamlets may form a breakaway party in an internal feud over allegations of racism.....**Page 2**

Penal shake-up

Michael Howard day published radical proposals to change the criminal justice system and introduce the biggest shake-up in the police for 30 years.....**Pages 1, 6**

Israel delay

Israel and the PLO are unlikely to resolve their differences on the Gaza-Jericho peace plan by the new deadline set for next week, and a deal could be postponed until the new year.....**Page 11**

Mammon's gospel

As more cathedrals start charging for entry, church leaders have begun asking questions about finances. A working party is to examine calls for uniform accounting procedures.....**Page 9**

Hendrix mystery

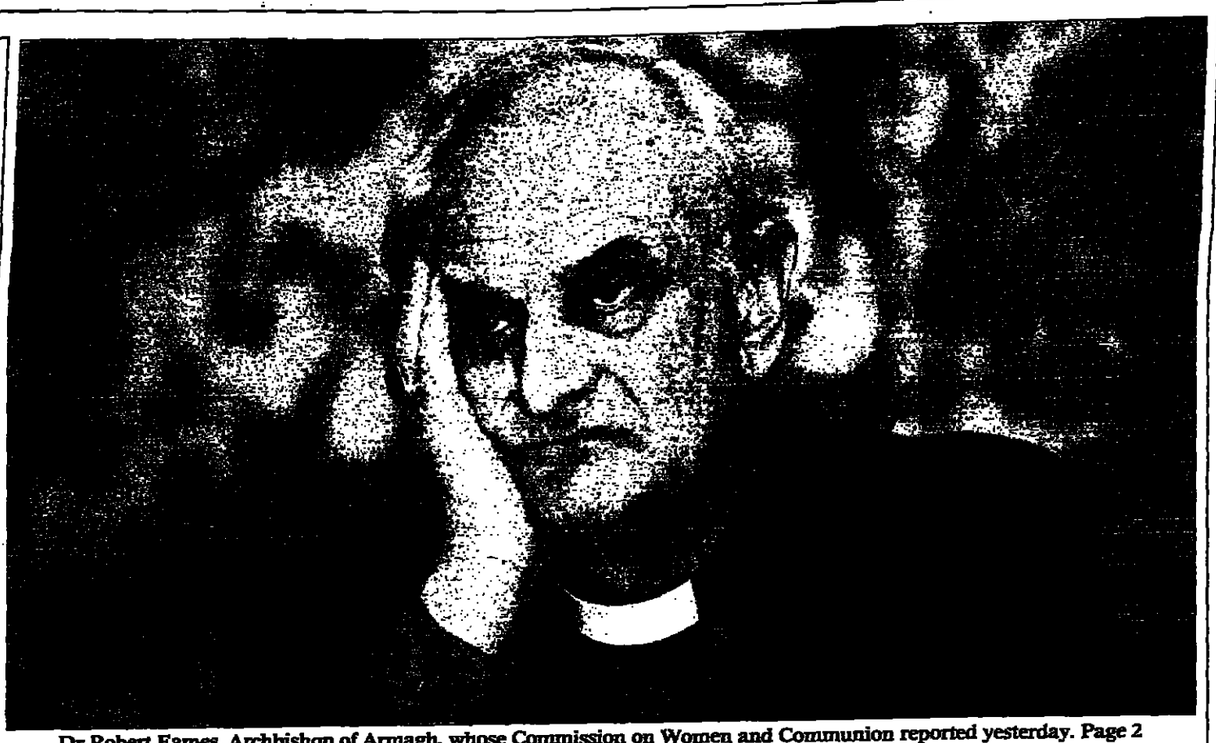
Jimi Hendrix had been dead "for hours rather than minutes" when admitted to hospital in 1970, according to the doctor who tried to revive him. The guitarist's girl friend always maintained he was still breathing when she telephoned for an ambulance **Page 8**

Image switch

Russia's neo-Fascists are toning down their former loutishness as Vladimir Zhirinovsky, cultivating a family image, raises his sights to the presidency.....**Page 12**

Fans get a double dose of soap

■ Fans of television's most popular programme, Granada's *Coronation Street*, are to get a monthly magazine devoted to the 33-year-old soap opera. *Coronation Street Magazine*, which will have a print run of 150,000, is being produced in close co-operation with the scriptwriters.....**Page 9**



Dr Robert Eames, Archbishop of Armagh, whose Commission on Women and Communion reported yesterday. **Page 2**

BUSINESS

British Gas: The corporation confirmed it is to shed 20,000 jobs as it announced a radical restructuring. The move pre-empted the government's response to a Monopolies and Mergers Commission enquiry on BG.....**Page 19**

Lloyd's: Nine days after Lloyd's of London slapped its settlement offer on the table, hoping to end thousands of names' legal actions, the threat arose of a new round of bitterness and lawsuits.....**Page 19**

William Hill: Flotation of William Hill, the betting shops subsidiary of debt-laden leisure conglomerate Brent Walker, was halted just days before advisers had expected to announce terms of a £500 million stockmarket launch.....**Page 19**

Markets: FT-SE 100 Index rose 25.9 points to 3337.1, a record high. Sterling's trade-weighted index stayed at 81.6 after a rise from $1.4882 to $1.4913 and fall from DM2.5453 to DM2.5409.....**Pages 19, 22**

SPORT

Ice skating: Katarina Witt, who is aiming for a return to Olympic competition, lies in second place after the technical programme at the German championships. Simon Barnes reports.....**Page 36**

Cricket: John Crawley scored an unbeaten 150 as England A piled up 310 runs for two wickets on the first day of their match against Eastern Province.....**Page 36**

Football: With the World Cup draw taking place in Las Vegas tomorrow, officials of Fifa, the governing body, have been trying to rescue the showbiz glitz fit for a world television audience that is approaching one billion.....**Page 34**

Yachting: The sponsor of Lawrie Smith's Whitbread Round the World Race entry, Intrum Justitia, has threatened to withdraw after the jury stood by its decision to award another yacht a favourable time allowance for trying to rescue a yacht in distress.....**Page 36**

ARTS

Supercharged singer: Sarah Williamson, the girl from Anfield, is a new voice from Liverpool with star quality and ambitions to go to the West End, Broadway, Hollywood. Alice Thomson on a phoenix in a beleaguered city.....**Page 1**

Fighting fit: Boxercise, a cross between boxing training and aerobics without tears, is a keep-fit craze from the United States that is attracting many women. Louise Taylor puts on the gloves and makes the punches tell.....**Page 3**

High fryers: The secrets of successful fish and chips are taught to the trade in Leeds. Julia Llewellyn Smith finds out what it takes to get the batter right.....**Page 4**

Fast food: Frances Bissell shows how to survive, with the right preparation, a hectic weekend of seasonal dinner parties.....**Page 5**

Word-Watching: The competition is on page 16, the answers are on page 13.....**Pages 13, 16**

WEEKEND

Records of the Year: The *Times* critics select the best recordings issued in 1993. From Mercedes Sosa, the mercurial Argentinian folk sensation, and Suede, which waltzed off with the rock plaudits, to the brilliant opera singer, Cecilia Bartoli, and the veteran of the musical avant-garde, Pierre Boulez, we nominate what we think the finest achievements on disc this year.....**Weekend, page 14**

Jacobi's Macbeth: "As Scottish butchers go, Derek Jacobi would seem better suited to paring a Highland lamb chop than carving up Macduffs," says Benedict Nightingale, reviewing the new Royal Shakespeare Company production of *Macbeth* at the Barbican in London. Nevertheless, Adrian Noble's staging of the Scottish play — which is designed almost entirely in black — has the dramatic advantages of admirable clarity and momentum**Weekend, page 14**

VISION

Channel hopping: With an avalanche of holiday programmes rumbling towards us, the sure-footed *Times* experts advise you, in a 52-page double edition, on the most stimulating viewing in the next 15 days on all the channels **Pages 2-43**

OPINION

Changing crimes

Harsher sentences for persistent young offenders are unlikely to turn these boys into angels. But the prospect that they will be removed from society and unable to commit crime is to be welcomed.... **Page 15**

Grow up, Greece

If Germany is a "giant", Greece is the "sick man" of the European Union, with the weakest economy and the least free society... **Page 15**

ANTHONY LESTER

If this Bill becomes law, it will mean politicising the police service on a massive scale, undreamt of even by the loony left councillors beloved of the Government's propaganda machine.....**Page 14**

SIMON JENKINS

The Sunday Times and Channel Four were right to break ranks over Aids research and give space to the arguments of the US arch-sceptic, Peter Duesberg. Here is a massive difference of opinion.....**Page 14**

Have the voters in the new Russia had a fair deal?.....**Page 15**

The phrases used on the doorstep of 10 Downing Street emphasised reassurance, tolerance, respect for different traditions and the universal desire for peace. It is a promising start —*The Washington Post*

Clinton's notion of simply leaving Bush Administration foreign policy on autopilot has not worked

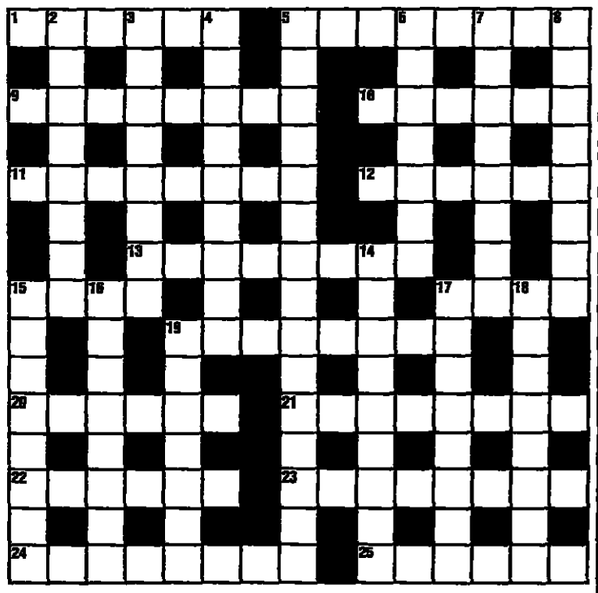
—*The New York Times*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,417

KNOCKANDO

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a beautifully crafted stationery rack, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Friday.

Name/Address .....



ACROSS

1 Frustrate people opposed to this denomination? (6).
5 Trouble resulting from having married one's boss (8).
9 At last, in switching partners, covered territory (8).
10 Strict exactitude I attempt in Capek's play (6).
11 Not the main way in which positions cross over on team (4-4).
12 Such a word always is (6).
13 New patterns detectable in one section of the church (8).
15 Unstable sort of sign improperly shown in road (4).
17 Search carefully for result of social workers' efforts (4).
19 Doctors needing capital to identify carrier of disease (8).
20 One noun included by poet is not properly defined (6).
21 It's not just fashionable to join a union (8).
22 Where axes cut root (6).
23 Chivalrous king appearing late, regularly (8).
24 In extremes of difficulty, is group breaking apart? (8).
25 Composer only apparently a foreigner (6).

DOWN

2 A romantic novel with no end of charm? (8).
3 Take off a garment in experiment (8).
4 Highly spiced vegetable can be awkward thing to handle (3,6).
5 Motorway anxiety soon does for doctor's servant (8,7).
6 Jungle fighter hidden by branch in ditch (7).
7 Island head, one coming to grief in opera (8).
8 Explosive device rioters set up in brief disturbance (4-4).
14 What woman, after engagement, is likely to do in place of fighting (5-4).
15 Chinaman's in one club after another, we hear (8).
16 Disagrees about a government leader's whims (8).
17 Do books with another firm at hour to be arranged (2-6).
18 Silk scarf or tie's first wrapped in paper (8).
19 Brief notice people can put nothing in? (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,411

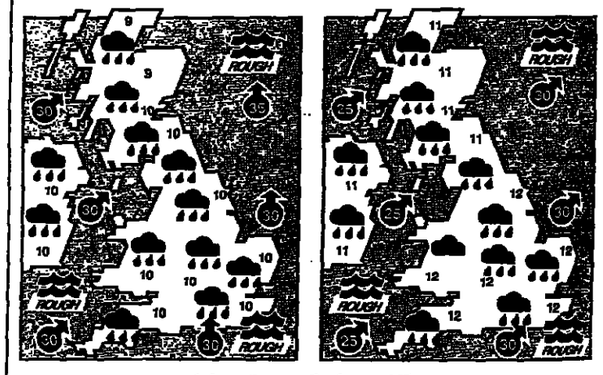
A	R	O	M	A	T	I	C		L			O		O
	O		A		I		H	A	I	R	L	I	N	E
B	U	R	N		T		I		N		V		C	
	G		A	C	H	I	L	L	E	S	H	E	E	L
	H		B		O		E		A		Q		I	
M	A	R	O	O	N		A	L	L	U	S	I	O	N
	G		U		U		N		P				E	
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R			T			R		E		T		V		
I	M	M	O	B	I	L	E		S	E	A	M	E	R
F		W		M		G		S		L		N		
T	U	R	N	U	P	T	R	U	M	P	S		T	
I		E		O		E		A		H	A	I	L	
C	H	A	R	T	R	E	S		T		I		D	
E		R		T		S	T	E	E	P	L	E	D	

Solution to Puzzle No 19,416

W	H	E	E	L		H	U	S	B	A	N	D	R	Y
I		X		I		A		E		P		E		I
L	A	T	E	C	O	M	E	R		R	U	C	H	E
L		R		K		B		F	I	A	L			
P	L	A	T	E		U	N	D	U	L	A	T	E	D
O				R		R		O		H				
W	E	D	D	I	N	G		M	O	S	E	L	L	E
E		T		S					H		O		N	
R	O	S	E	H	I	P		C	R	O	O	N	E	R
		S			A		A		R			O		
E	Y	E	O	P	E	N	E	R		E	Q	U	A	L
O		M		E		A		L		T		M		
U	R	B	A	N		C	O	M	M	I	T	T	E	E
I		L		C		H		E		N		E		N
P	I	E	C	E	M	E	A	L		E	Q	R	E	T

WEATHER

A band of cloud and rain affecting mainly southwestern parts will edge across the remaining regions. Winds in the northeast will be light at first, but will become strong southwesterly, with gales in many western and southern parts and very blustery winds in areas with high ground to the west. It will be noticeably milder. Outlook: windy and unsettled, staying mild in the south of England, but becoming colder in northern parts.



Information supplied by Met Office

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Heredds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	f	Madrid	5	41	c
Alcantri	18	64	f	Majorca	14	57	f
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Malaga	16	61	f
Algiers	18	64	s	Malta	17	63	f
Amst'dm	6	43	f	Melb'rne	17	63	f
Athens	19	66	s	Mexico C*	18	64	s
Bahrain	19	66	s	Miami*	18	64	s
Bangkok	27	81	f	Milan	9	48	s
Barbados*	29	84	f	Montreal*	-2	28	s
Barcelona	12	54	f	Moscow	1	34	c
Beirut	18	64	s	Munich	3	37	r
Belgrade	11	52	s	Nairobi	25	77	f
Berlin	5	41	c	Naples	18	64	s
Bermuda*	23	73	f	N Delhi	21	70	s
Biarritz	14	57	c	N York*	6	43	s
Border'x	13	55	c	Nice	16	61	s
Brussels	8	43	s	Oslo	-4	25	s
Budapst	7	45	s	Paris	11	52	c
B Aires*	25	77	f	Perth	40	104	s
Cairo	19	66	s	Prague	4	39	c
Cape Tn	21	70	c	Reykjavik	-6	21	s
Chicago*	4	39	c	Rhodes	18	64	f
Ch'church	18	64	c	Rio de J	29	84	f
Cologne	6	43	c	Riyadh	19	66	s
C'phagn	3	37	r	Rome	16	61	s
Corfu	16	64	s	Salzburg	2	36	sn
Dublin	10	50	c	S F'isco*	9	48	s
Dubrovnik	15	59	f	Santiago*	29	84	s
Faro	17	63	f	S Paulo*	29	84	c
Florence	14	57	s	Seoul	-6	21	s
Frankfurt	4	39	r	Sing'por	26	79	t
Funchal	17	63	c	St'kholm	1	34	r
Geneva	8	46	r	Straeb'rg	7	45	r
Gibraltar	15	59	s	Sydney	21	70	c
Helsinki	0	32	c	Tangier	15	59	s
Hong K	13	55	s	Tel Aviv	20	68	s
Innsbruk	1	34	sn	Tenerife	20	68	f
Istanbul	14	57	f	Tokyo	11	52	s
Jeddah	31	88	s	Toronto*	2	36	s
Jo'burg*	23	73	f	Tunis	18	64	f
Karachi	27	81	s	Valencia	14	57	s
L Palmas	19	66	s	Vanc'ver*	5	41	s
Le Tquet	7	45	f	Venice	6	43	s
Lisbon	10	50	fg	Vienna	7	45	s
Locarno	8	46	s	Warsaw	3	37	r
L Angels*	13	55	s	Wash'ton*	9	48	c
Luxemb'g	4	39	sl	Wellington	16	61	c
Lyon	25	77	s	Zurich	6	43	r

* denotes figures are latest available

London 3.53 pm to 8.02 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.12 am
Edinburgh 3.39 pm to 8.40 am
Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.21 am
Penzance 4.21 pm to 8.17 am

TODAY

Sun rises: 8.02 am — Sun sets: 3.53 pm
Moon rises 10.45 am — Moon sets 10.04 pm

December 19 1993 London 3.53 pm to 8.03 am
Bristol 4.03 pm to 8.12 am
Edinburgh 3.29 pm to 8.41 am
Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.22 am
Penzance 3.21 pm to 8.18 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 8.02 am — Sun sets: 3.53 pm
Moon rises 11.05 am — Moon sets 11.10 pm

Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989: The hours of darkness are defined in these Regulations as the period between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise.

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.0	0.17	5	41	shower
Anglesey	2.5	-	7	45	bright
Aviemore	2.8	0.24	2	36	snow
Belfast	2.8	0.04	5	41	shower
Birmingham	5.0	0.04	7	45	sunny
Bognor Regis	5.7	0.01	8	46	sunny
Bournemouth	3.3	-	9	48	bright
Bristol	5.2	0.11	8	46	sunny
Buxton	0.6	0.64	5	41	hail
Cardiff	5.3	0.06	8	46	sunny
Clacton	2.5	-	8	46	sunny
Cromer	1.1	-	7	45	cloudy
Eastbourne	6.8	0.01	9	48	sunny
Edinburgh	5.0	-	5	41	sunny
Eskdalemuir	4.6	0.07	3	37	sunny
Exmouth	3.0	0.09	7	45	shower
Falmouth	5.5	0.02	9	48	sunny
Folkestone	5.5	-	9	48	sunny
Glasgow	4.7	0.05	6	43	shower
Guernsey	6.2	0.01	10	50	sunny
Hastings	4.9	-	9	48	bright
Hunstanton	2.3	0.04	7	45	bright
Isle of Man	4.3	0.01	7	45	sunny
Jersey	4.6	0.13	10	50	bright
Kinloss	1.7	0.08	5	41	shower
Leeds	4.2	0.20	7	45	shower
Lerwick	1.9	0.12	4	39	bright
Littlehampton	6.3	0.02	9	48	sunny
Liverpool	1.3	0.15	7	45	hail
London	4.7	0.01	9	48	bright
Lowestoft	1.1	0.11	7	45	rain
Manchester	2.1	0.18	7	45	shower
Minehead	X	0.38	8	46	hail
Morecambe	2.2	0.16	6	43	shower
Newcastle	2.1	0.02	8	43	sunny
Nottingham	2.7	0.07	6	43	shower
Penzance	3.6	0.01	10	50	shower
Plymouth	3.9	0.09	8	46	shower
Poole	5.6	-	9	48	sunny
Saunton Snd	-	0.22	8	46	cloudy
Scarborough	2.2	0.07	5	41	cloudy
Scilly Isles	2.3	0.03	9	48	shower
Shanklin	4.5	-	8	46	sunny
Southsea	4.4	-	9	48	sunny
Stornoway	0.9	0.17	5	41	hail
Swanage	5.4	-	9	48	sunny
Teignmouth	1.8	0.23	7	45	shower
Tenby	-	0.08	7	45	drizzle
Tiree	2.3	0.10	6	43	hail
Torquay	2.5	0.15	8	46	bright
Weymouth	3.9	0.03	9	48	shower
Wick	3.1	0.23	3	37	sleet

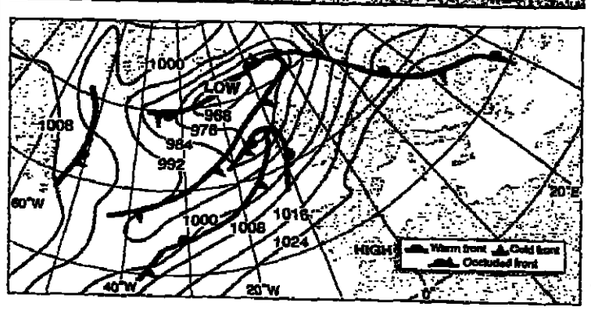
* denotes not available

FOREIGN RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.3475	2.3475
Austria Sch	18.83	17.83
Belgium Fr	58.12	51.72
Canada $	2.0950	1.9350
Cyprus Cypf	0.7800	0.7400
Denmark Kr	10.55	9.760
Finland Mkr	9.28	8.480
France Fr	8.12	8.42
Germany Dm	2.8600	2.4800
Greece Dr	395.50	360.50
Hong Kong $	12.15	11.15
Ireland Pt	1.0875	1.0175
Italy Lira	2810	2455
Japan Yen	161.00	161.50
Malta	0.6200	0.5850
Netherlands Gld	2.9900	2.7600
Norway Kr	11.62	10.62
Portugal Esc	270.50	252.00
South Africa Rd	5.75	4.85
Spain Pta	218.00	204.00
Sweden Kr	13.04	12.24
Switzerland Fr	2.9075	2.1275
Turkey Lira	21390	20390
USA $	1.5850	1.4650

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

MOON TODAY



AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

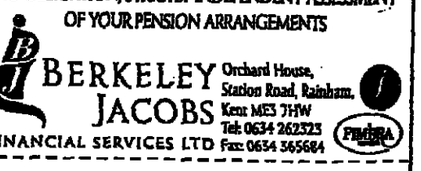
National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Winners of last Saturday's competition are: D Cleaver, Lark Rise, Heyford Road, Steeple Ashton, Oxon; C Godbolt, 145 Singlewell Road, Gravesend, Kent; G Fairchild, New Road, Llanelli, Dyfed; A T Aucott, The Boat House, Brae, Ullapool, Wester Ross; S May, Church Farm Barns, Mortimer, Reading, Berkshire.

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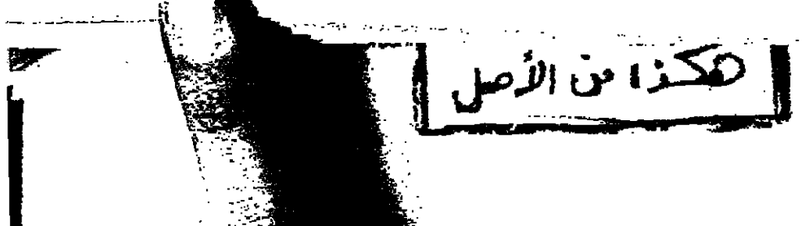
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PROFILE 19

Establishment meets maverick at Lloyd's

EMERGING 21

Chrysalis to refocus as a media company



Top all-rounder primed for her next challenge

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES
Page 33

THE TIMES

SATURDAY DECEMBER 18 1993

British Gas shake-up axes 20,000 jobs

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

■ **The move from 12 regions to five stand-alone businesses will reduce duplication in such areas as finance, personnel and transport, says British Gas**

BRITISH Gas yesterday confirmed that it is to shed 20,000 jobs as it announced a radical restructuring of its business, including the disappearance of all its regions.

The move — a fundamental reorganisation of the gas business in Britain — is a remarkable unilateral step by British Gas, pre-empting an announcement by Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, of the government response to a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on BG. The reorganisation will mean that, instead of 12 regions, BG will be split into initially five and then six businesses from March, when the restructuring takes effect.

Gas industry insiders claimed yesterday that Mr Heseltine was being prevented by the Treasury from issuing his response to the report, published in August.

Although the industry thought Mr Heseltine was ready to respond this week, gas managers said that a direct clash between Mr Heseltine and Michael Portillo, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, over the former's conclusions was preventing an announcement of his response.

BG and independent gas producers believe that Mr Heseltine has rejected the MMC's central advice to break up British Gas by divesting it of its gas transportation and storage business, preferring instead to opt for greater competition. They claim that Mr Portillo is blocking this as an insufficient response to the MMC advice.

The Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry last night denied any such clash, although Treasury officials acknowledged "interdepartmental rivalries" over the report.

In a Commons written reply, Neil Hamilton, the industry minister, said that Mr Heseltine would give his decision on the report "as soon as possible". Although an announcement is theoretically possible next week, the industry believes that it will now not come until mid-January when Parliament returns.

BG said that the restructuring would lead to the loss of 20,000 jobs over the next three years, which it expected to come from voluntary redundancies. BG said that it could not specify yet where job cuts would fall, but it is likely that most will be among white-collar staff. Restructuring the company from 12 regions to five stand-alone businesses will let BG reduce duplication in such areas as finance, personnel and transport.

Tempus 21

The job cuts will reduce the workforce of BG's gas business by a third, from its current level of 64,000, itself almost a third down on the 90,000 at privatisation in 1986.

Norman Blacker, BG director responsible for the gas business, said: "Our objective is to become leaner, more competitive and more commercially focused. It is in the interests of our shareholders and customers that we do so."

Donald Macgregor, the GMB union's energy secretary, said that the restructuring was an "ill-conceived plan which trades jobs and standards for the international market's profits".

The restructuring, Mr Blacker said, would "represent the most fundamental changes in organisation and culture in the gas business for more than 40 years".

BG said that its principal businesses would now be:

☐ Public gas supply — buying gas for its largely domestic customers, and using a separate BG business to store and transport it.

☐ Servicing and installation — concentrating on gas central heating markets.

☐ Retailing — with a restyled network of High Street shops.

☐ Contract trading — marketing "aggressively" to business users of more than 2,500 therms a year. This ignores the MMC's recommended threshold of 1,500 therms.

☐ Transport and storage — servicing internal BG customers of public gas supply and contract trading. This is again contrary to MMC recommendations that BG should shed this business because of "inherent conflict of interest" with its supply business.

A common services unit will cover areas such as personnel and finance before its work is fully transferred, after two years, to the five businesses.

If the MMC advice is upheld and BG is made to divest, its managers believe that the new scheme would allow it to do so, though against their wishes.



Bland date: Sir Christopher and Greg Dyke, LWT's chiefs, seek the perfect partner

Blind date for LWT this weekend

LONDON Weekend Television, fighting the £600 million bid from Granada, has to produce its defence document by *deadline* on Monday. LWT, whose programmes include *Blind Date*, has been seeking a suitor which would give the combined group two television franchises and so protect them from Granada. Recently relaxed ITC regulations allow only two franchises per company. Yorkshire Tyne Tees this week confirmed that bid talks had taken place, but these may have foundered on the need to divest the Tyne Tees franchise to a third party. LWT may now be talking direct to Anglia.

Melvyn Marckus, page 20

All bets off as William Hill float is halted

By George Sivell
Assistant Business Editor

THE expected flotation of William Hill, the betting shops subsidiary of Brent Walker, the debt laden leisure conglomerate, was dramatically halted last night, just days before advisers had expected to announce terms of a £500 million stock market launch.

It is understood that Sir Keith Bright, chairman of Brent Walker, has persuaded bankers to William Hill, not to go ahead with the flotation, which had originally been sought to recover £365 million of debt that was due to be paid to a syndicate of banks headed by Lloyds and Standard Chartered, on March 1, 1994.

Advisers working on the William Hill float estimated they had completed more than three-quarters of the work necessary to make an announcement possible in order to get the proceeds in for the March bank deadline.

But the work has been stopped because Sir Keith is understood to have been able to persuade banks to extend the £365 million debt to 1999, because he has convinced them that the proceeds of a flotation in two or more years' time would be much greater. A delay gives William Hill a chance to recover from the recession and to resolve litigation with Grand Metropolitan over the William Hill sale.

In recent Brent Walker results, William Hill has proved to be the most profitable part of the business.

Lloyds Bank agreed with Brent Walker that it was better to postpone the float until more money could be raised and confirmed support for the flotation had been strong and that sale to a venture capital consortium would have raised £450 million. Lloyds, however, added that it had increased its exposure to William Hill temporarily until the shape of the William Hill syndicate changed in March.

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

WEEKEND MONEY

BOXING CLEVER



Christmas season television may be a battleground between the banks and building societies for your financial favours

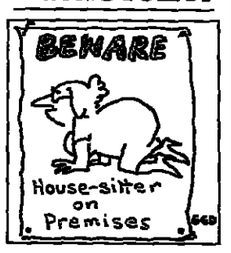
Page 23

RIGHT SHOP

Shopping at this time of year can be hell, but knowing your rights can take away some of the strain

Page 25

WRONG POLICY



Leaving house-sitters in charge over the holiday may disqualify policy holders from claiming on insurance

Page 24

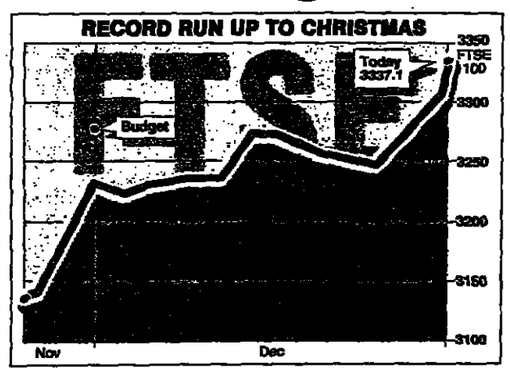
SAVING GRACE

Dig out those old passbooks. Obsolete savings accounts are almost certainly costing you money

Page 24

Stock market extends record-breaking run

By Michael Clark
Stock Market Correspondent



A FURTHER £5 billion was added to the value of Britain's publicly quoted companies as the London stock market extended its record-breaking run.

But profit-taking in the wake of the market's recent strong run and the expiry of the December series of the financial future left prices closing below their best.

The FT-SE 100 index touched an all-time intra-trading peak of 3,350.8 around midday before closing 25.9 points up at 3,337.1, a rise on the first leg of the three-week account of 75.8. The index has now risen 201 points since Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, unveiled his first Budget package on November 30.

City fund managers are continuing to pin their hopes on a further half-point cut in bank base rates. But some of the more conservative traders are convinced any action will be postponed until the new year. This will be of little comfort to hard-pressed market-makers who are borrowing from stock-lenders to cover short positions.

Turnover levels have risen sharply this week, with the number of shares changing hands yesterday totalling more than one billion.

The market's strength this year has paved the way for lucrative bonuses to be paid to top dealers. In the case of the larger American securities houses such as Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Salomon Brothers, these bonuses are reputed to have been as high as $1 million each.

It is thought that Cazenove, the broker, paid an 80 per cent bonus to its top traders in the third-quarter. Payments of up to 100 per cent are also envisaged for several other leading houses. The average basic salary for an experienced trader is between £50,000 and £75,000.

Market report, page 22

Lloyd's agency sues name over guide

By Sarah Bagnall, Insurance Correspondent

JUST nine days after Lloyd's of London put its settlement offer on the table in an attempt to end thousands of names' legal actions, another dispute has arisen threatening to start a new round of bitter recriminations and law suits.

Sturge Holdings, one of the largest Lloyd's agencies, has issued a writ against John Rew, co-founder of Chatset, the independent Lloyd's analyst. The agency alleges Mr Rew breached confidentiality agreements by publishing, in a Chatset guide, information given to him as chairman of the Sturge Names Action Group. The agency said that the action may lead to names on Sturge syndicates suing Mr Rew. Ironically, the guide's co-editor is Charles Sturge, of the Sturge family.

The accusations come as Lloyd's is trying to clean up its act and remove the secrecy that hinders understanding of the workings of the 305-year old insurance market. The gap between what names want to know and what they get to know is vast, and Chatset, which has published league tables on agencies since the late-1970s, tries to narrow it.

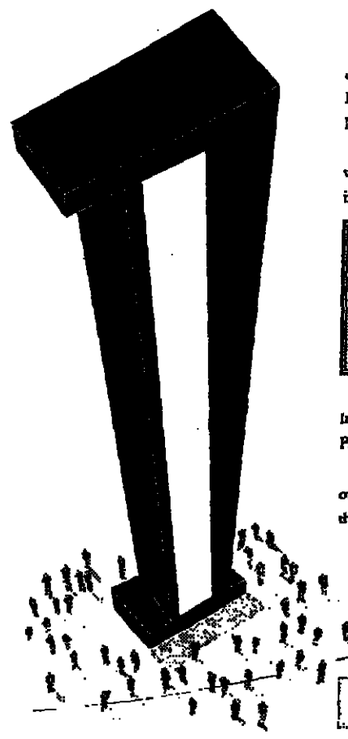
Mr Rew and Mr Sturge are both names with big losses and their delvings into Lloyd's have been an irritant to it. Although Lloyd's annually ridicules the analyst's forecasts of market performance, its predictions have proved far more accurate than Lloyd's.

Sturge's action calls into question what names are allowed to know about syndicates in which they invest. The agency has taken umbrage at disclosures about its former flagship syndicate 210, a non-marine syndicate. These include details of a memo to the board suggesting that the syndicate's run-off costs could reach $800 million.

Sturge this year announced a restructuring involving closures of seven syndicates and 178 redundancies. In 1990, the agency had capacity of £1.25 billion, but capacity fell to £723 million this year as names put their money elsewhere.

Partners in Power, page 21

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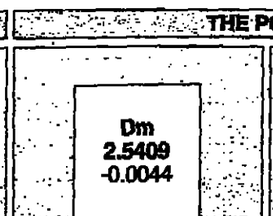
STOCK MARKET





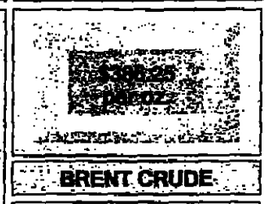
Midday trading figure

THE POUND

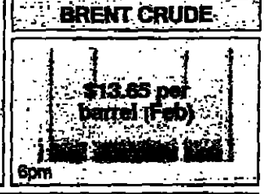




GOLD



BRENT CRUDE



LONDON CLOSING PRICES

MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 22, SHARE PRICES PAGE 29

Stand by for the South Bank showdown

Granada's £600 million battle for control of LWT Holdings can be expected to warm up on Monday: D-Day for the publication of LWT's official defence document.

A few official words, it has to be said, would not come amiss. There has, after all, been a plethora of unofficial words during the past fortnight, courtesy of the spin doctors and the Press (an area of the media which would like a greater stake in television but, for the time being, has to content itself with a greater say).

We have learned how, two weeks ago today, Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of LWT, along with chief executive Greg Dyke, were invited to take coffee with their opposite numbers Alex Bernstein and Gerry Robinson at the latter's Holland Park residence. The coffee was taken, the proposals (come mid-day Sunday after Bland and Dyke had consulted with colleagues and advisers) refused.

It has been said that Robinson enjoys a "robust" reputation and we have been reminded of his robustness at Lex Service, where he worked for the group's Volvo network, and subsequently at Grand Metropolitan's British Coca-Cola operation before he spearheaded the management buyout of GrandMet's contract services division — subsequently floated as Compass. News of a 53 per cent upsurge in Granada's pre-tax profits for 1992-93 to £176 million, on a turnover of £1.6 billion, is perceived to reflect this self-same quality.

Bland has let it be known that his "favourite letter in the world" is the autumn 1991 message from Sir George Russell on whom it fell, as chairman of the Independent Television Commission, to inform LWT that it had "retained its right to broadcast". Bland has also felt compelled to show journalists a cheque for his "first million," while recollecting that he once paid "£4 a week for a room and cold water in the Fulham Road". This, it would appear, was *before* he made his first million. Bland now enjoys hot water, which seems justly deserved for one who, as his friend Max Hastings opined in *The Daily Telegraph*: "Would probably be in the Cabinet today if he had gone that route."

We have, of course, learned other things, not least that Granada, whose foray comes hard on the heels of Carlton Communications' agreed £624 million acquisition of Midlands-based Central TV, is in something of a hurry to clinch a deal which, if successful, means that Carlton and Granada would, between them, account for more than half of ITV's £1.4 billion annual advertising revenue.

LWT's camp does not necessarily dispute Granada's arguments in their entirety: the area of dispute focusing on Granada's terms (a six-for-five share swap currently worth 624p accompanied by a cash alternative of 528p) and the fact that only 20 per cent of Granada's operating profits are derived from television.



MELVYN MARCKUS

Bland's favourite word is "conglomerate", Robinson consistently returns to "marginalisation". It is to counter the latter that Bland has opened up exploratory talks with Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, in which LWT holds a 14 per cent stake, and, in tandem, is holding discussions with Anglia Television, perceived as a potential purchaser of Tyne Tees, should Bland propose an LWT/Yorkshire amalgam. LWT is also understood to have flirted with Scottish Television and Border — other potential purchasers of Tyne Tees.

Anglia's share price has more than doubled this year on the belief that its days of independence are numbered: the rumoured suitor being Lord Hollick's MAI conglomerate, which controls 55 per cent of Meridian, the Southern broadcaster.

Earlier this week Yorkshire delayed its 1992-93 results, declared that pre-tax losses would not exceed £9.5 million and passed its final dividend: events which reflect an advertising oversale fiasco which led to last month's abrupt exit of chief executive Clive Leach.

Against this background, Ward Thomas, Yorkshire's chairman, would clearly favour an LWT takeover: witness the board's decision to permit LWT to begin due diligence investigations a week ago yesterday. That said, Yorkshire, in its current financial plight, is hardly the ideal plank on which to build a bid defence, which is why Bland is pursuing talks with Anglia. Under the latest rulings, one company is permitted ownership of a maximum of two licences but, so the theory goes, any further relaxation would permit a grand alliance of LWT/Yorkshire and Anglia/Tyne Tees.

Monday's defence document from LWT will, inevitably, highlight such possibilities but, in view of the fact that talks are ongoing, the emphasis can be expected to be on *options* rather than *proposals*.

In Bland's words: "There is no possibility of LWT pursuing any strategy that is not earnings enhancing or in shareholders' best interests. Any talk of a poison pill is ridiculous."

Bland and some 50 colleagues, it may be recalled, control some 10 per cent of LWT's equity, courtesy of the company's controversial "golden handcuff" incentive scheme which ultimately created a host of multi-millionaries — Bland's investment being worth close on £12 million.

LWT's defence, led by merchant banker Samuel Montagu, will thus make much of the company's impressive profit and dividend growth: fully reflected in a spiralling share price. A profit forecast for 1993 is expected to comfortably outstrip analysts' expectations of £36 million compared with last year's £30.6 million.

All the same, LWT is battling off the back foot. Granada already controls a 17.5 per cent stake, Mercury Asset Management holds 14.7 per cent, while Warburg Pincus Capital accounts for a further 7.1 per cent. LWT's share price at 599p is standing at a 25p discount against Granada's terms (which may yet be sweetened) but history teaches us it will take a lot to convince City institutions not to take the short term view.

Norman predicts Asda revival will be complete in two years

By Sarah Bagnall

ARCHIE Norman, chief executive at Asda, yesterday predicted that the revival of the supermarket chain under his leadership will be complete in two years.

However, the task of narrowing the gap with its big rivals, J Sainsbury, Tesco and Argyll, comes against a backdrop of tough market conditions and relentless competition; an environment Mr Norman said he expected to continue for the next three years.

Asda nevertheless pleased the City with a 9 per cent rise in sales to £2.45 billion for the 28 weeks to November 13. The shares rose 1p to 56p.

Mr Norman said: "This was achieved without any new store openings, while other supermarket chains have been announcing far smaller sales growths, which have come largely from new stores. On a like-for-like basis, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Argyll have had sales growth of between 1 per cent and 2 per cent."



Archie Norman has seen Asda achieve 9 per cent growth in sales without the opening of any new stores

Asda's sales growth reflected significant changes in its product range, involving a shift to more fresh food produce and the delisting of more than 1,500 do-it-yourself items, motor accessories and home textiles products, coupled with strong sales growth from the refurbished superstores.

"Our old stores achieved sales growth in double figures and the three refurbished stores have lifted sales by 20 per cent," Mr Norman said. As part of its revival programme, Asda intends to rejuvenate a further seven hyperstores, having already done four, and accelerate the closure and replacement programme of its older stores.

Profits before tax and exceptional items for the six months rose from £46.1 million to £83.9 million, helped by a sharp fall in interest costs. The reduction in net debt, from £471.6 million to £55.3 million, helped knock £44 million off the interest bill, to £7.9 million.

The company called on shareholders for £340 million in January, and the rights issue, coupled with £360 million generated from operations and disposal of assets, has helped reduce net borrowings from the 1991 peak levels of more than £1 billion.

The dividend was lifted 10 per cent to 0.55p, out of earnings of 2.03p a share, reflecting Asda's policy of maintaining a prudent dividend cover. "Also having asked shareholders for money, we are not just going to hand it straight back to them," Mr Norman said. Asda needs funds for the overhaul of its stores, which accounted for the bulk of the £126 million capital expenditure bill in the first half. Capital expenditure in the second half is expected to match this, as the company makes greater inroads into its refurbishment programme, which includes the modernisation of about 100 petrol stations, at an average cost of £50,000.

Second-half profits will be depressed by a loss of £123 million on the sale of Allied Maples, the anticipated disposal of the final segment of which was announced yesterday.

Part of the cost is due to the write-back of £53 million of goodwill previously written off. The Maples division is being sold to management for £1 million and follows the sale two weeks ago of Allied, the constituent part of Allied Maples, which incurred a loss of £14.4 million compared with £11.9 million last time. The loss would have been larger, but Asda used £6 million of provisions.

Manweb follows dividend trend

By Philip Pangalos

MANWEB is rewarding investors with a 14.7 per cent rise in the interim dividend as the regional electricity company, based in Chester, becomes the latest privatised utility to report a jump in first-half profits.

A surge in demand from industrial customers and effective cost controls helped pre-tax profits at Manweb leap to £54.9 million in the six months to September 30, against £37.1 million last time. Underlying profits were ahead 25 per cent.

John Roberts, chief executive, said: "We are reasonably optimistic about what's happening, with our region showing further signs of coming out of recession. We had an increase in our volume of 2.14 per cent spread across all sectors, including industrial."

Demand for units from the company's 1.3 million domestic customers grew by 2.85 per cent, while industrial demand bucked the trend in many other regions of the country with a 2.36 per cent advance.

Turnover rose 7 per cent to £437.4 million. There was a change from a segmental loss of £2.7 million in 1992, to a profit of £17.4 million, due to new contracts and lower costs.

Manweb cut prices to its domestic customers by 1 per cent in July and introduced a discount for card meter customers. The proposed increase in value-added tax will more than wipe this out, though Mr Roberts said Manweb's customers had seen a 4.3 per cent reduction in real terms over the past two years. "We will try to hold our prices static as long as we can," he added.

However, July's 1 per cent price reduction and the change in the spread of electricity purchase cost will result in a lower percentage increase in profit at the year-end than that produced at the half year.

Manweb has made a small profit with contracts to supply almost 1,000 sites. Both the windfarms were in full swing and the generation business produced a small operating profit. The interim payout is raised to 7p (6.1p), from earnings of 34.1p (23.5p) a share. Shares firmed 4p to 751p.



Roberts: "optimistic"

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

House building in US shows sustained rise

AMERICA's Commerce Department said housing starts climbed by 3.9 per cent in November, the fourth consecutive monthly rise. Data for new housing was in line with other recent indicators of economic activity, suggesting a strong rise in the fourth quarter. A poll by *The Wall Street Journal* and NBC found that 43 per cent of Americans now expect the economy to improve over the next year, more than twice the level in October.

Senior officials at the Federal Reserve, normally wary about the inflationary consequences of sudden surges in growth, indicated they were against sanctioning a rise in short-term interest rates, currently at around 3 per cent, at Tuesday's open market committee meeting. A rate rise had been widely thought to be imminent. The Federal Reserve apparently also believes that economic growth, while likely to surge in the first quarter next year, may stabilise later at a rate of 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent. But on Wall Street economists view a rise in interest rates as inevitable, especially since the real rate of interest — the nominal rate less expected inflation — is zero if not negative.

BA extends at Heathrow

BRITISH Airways is proposing to invest £150 million in expanding cargo facilities at Heathrow airport in a development with BAA, the airport operator. BA said the project would eventually double its Heathrow cargo handling capacity to around one million tonnes a year by the year 2000. Planning will begin early next year, with a view to getting board approval and construction under way by the end of 1994. The first phase is due to be completed in late 1996, the second phase in 1998 and the third in 2000. BA set up World Cargo as a separate division one year ago when it decided to place more emphasis on its cargo services.

Trafalgar sets terms

TRAFALGAR House, the troubled engineering and shipping conglomerate, has set the conversion terms of its convertible preference issue, launched earlier this week, at the equivalent of 90.3p per ordinary share. The company said initial conversion terms would allow convertible holders to receive 1.10742 fully paid ordinary shares per preference share held. This means holders get 276.8549 ordinary shares for every £100 nominal of convertible preferences shares. Trafalgar launched the £425 million issue on Tuesday to bolster a balance sheet battered by huge losses and imprudent accounting.

Chelsfield in demand

INVESTORS who applied for shares in the Chelsfield property group face disappointment as high demand will see their allocations cut back. The group, which makes its stock market debut on Tuesday, said applications by investors through stockbrokers were nearly five times oversubscribed. As a result, investors who applied for 1,000 shares will receive only 205. The flotation, involving a share placing with investors and intermediaries' offer priced at 150p, will raise £50 million for the group, which has stakes in the Merry Hill shopping centre, in the West Midlands, and Wentworth Golf Club.

Kingfisher's Darty slips

SHARES in Kingfisher, the Woolworths to B&Q chain, added 7p to 717p yesterday, even though Darty, its French subsidiary, revealed that profits in the year to August 31 fell to Frl,005 million (Frl,066 million). Darty became part of Kingfisher last June and its results will be consolidated in the UK company's results for the year to January. Like-for-like sales for Darty were down 4 per cent on the previous 12 months, and the directors of Etablissement Darty will propose a dividend of Frl1 at the next agm. Darty's contribution to Kingfisher profits before tax and interest for the quarter to August 31, was £23.4 million.Tempus, page 21

UT shake-up cuts losses

LOSSES at United Technologies were reduced to £553,000 before tax in the six months to October 2, from £1.93 million previously, as restructuring continued at the specialist engineering group. Losses per share fell to 1.48p from 5.23p; there is no dividend (nil). The results included exceptional charges of £133,000 against redundancy and reorganisation costs. Comparable figures for 1992 included total charges of £1.41 million. Operating losses were cut to £261,000 from £1.4 million on turnover of £12.96 million, down from £14.13 million. Interest charges fell to £292,000 from £536,000, reflecting lower interest rates and reduced borrowings.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

BURNDENE INVEST
Pre-tax: £5.8m (£5.8m)
EPS: 3.73p (3.59p)
Div: 1.25p, mkg 1.75p
Final results. Final dividend in previous year was 0.909p. Property revaluation shows £5.66 million surplus over previous total

RELIANCE SECURITY (Int)
Pre-tax: £991,000
EPS: 3p (2.7p)
Div: 1.1p (1.1p)
Previous interim profit was £905,000. Despite positive signs, recovery from recession still appears slow

TINSLEY (ELIZA) GROUP
Pre-tax: £329,000
EPS: 2.84p (3.57p)
Div: 1.96p (1.8p)
Interim results. Previous interim profits were £408,000. Sales are rising but pressure remains on margins

TRIO HOLDINGS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £5.08m
EPS: 3.10p (2.25p loss)
Div: 1.5p, mkg 2.5p
There was a loss of £68,000 in previous year and no dividend. Profits incorporate results of Martin Bierbaum Group

Reuters pays £83m for systems firm

By Martin Flanagan

REUTERS, the international financial information and news agency, announced the $125.1 million (£83 million) cash acquisition of Teknekron Software Systems, a leading supplier of digital trading systems based in California, and a name well known in City dealing houses.

Reuters said the tie-up would help meet growing client demand for systems that provided multi-faceted data.

David Ure, Reuters marketing and development director, said the American company's products and Reuters' Triarch system would fuse expertise to provide "a high-powered decision support system for traders". He added that dealers in the financial market wanted increasingly "to look at different forms of data, not just the whole universe provided by Reuters". The company believes the eventual acquisition cost will be much less than yesterday's figure because it related mostly to goodwill and intangible assets, which would attract US tax benefits over the next 15 years.

Teknekron's management will retain operational control, with two of Reuters' directors joining the American firm's board as non-executives. Under the deal, up to 100 Teknekron employees will qualify for share appreciation rights, similar to performance-related options in the UK, dependent on earnings growth.

Reuters declined to give further details of remuneration available to the American staff.

Tempus, page 21

EC near to steel agreement

From James Landale in Brussels

AFTER months of argument, European Community industry ministers were last night on the point of agreeing a package of subsidies for state-owned steelmakers, paving the way for a wider restructuring of the industry.

However, British steel producers feared the deal could give too many subsidies to its competitors and fail to ensure enough capacity cuts in an industry crippled by overproduction. It appeared that Tim Sainsbury, the industry minister, was being forced to concede ground as other member states gave their approval to the latest plans. After abortive meetings this autumn, the ministers had to agree a balance of subsidies-for-cuts which the European Commission hopes will lead to industry-wide cuts of 30 million tonnes of excess crude steel capacity.

When the deal is completed, the commission will authorise subsidies worth £5.18 billion to state-owned companies in Germany, Italy, Spain and Portugal in exchange for overall capacity cuts of 5.5 million tonnes. The ministers hope private producers will then make further cuts.

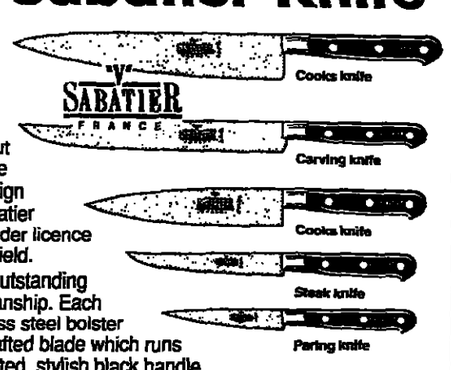
Agreement last night would lead to a fuller restructuring plan, including compensation for the expected 50,000 redundancies across Europe, closer monitoring of the steel market and better safeguards against foreign imports. Remaining disagreement mainly concerned Germany and Spain.

Ministers were ready to agree subsidies worth around £320 million to Eko Stahl, of eastern Germany, with which it intends to build a new steel mill. Britain argued that subsidies should not include new capacity. Last night, it looked as if Eko Stahl was going to be allowed to increase capacity by up to 2 million tonnes by the year 2004. Britain also argued that Spain's Ansio plant should be shut before further subsidies are granted.

THE TIMES

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LLOYD'S OF LONDON: **David Rowland and Peter Middleton**

Hard man, soft man trying not to name-drop

partners in power

Sarah Bagnall focuses on the two men appointed to find answers to the insurance market's massive problems

Dealing with a crisis often reveals the true nature of people. And tackling the myriad of problems threatening to topple Lloyd's of London, the world's largest insurance market, is no exception. Peter Middleton, chief executive, is revealed as a man who shoots from the hip while David Rowland, chairman, checks his gun is loaded before carefully taking aim.

Rowland is a considered man. He is largely what you would expect — polished, part of the old school network, with a degree from Cambridge and a long and successful career in the insurance world. His appointment as chairman was no surprise to Lloyd's insiders but the almost simultaneous appearance of Middleton, a maverick former monk with a penchant for motorbikes and cigarettes, was.

Rowland as chairman in waiting could have vetoed the appointment but instead he says: "I didn't see any other candidates". He admits he was intrigued from the outset but couldn't get a handle on Middleton. "He puzzled me. I liked him immediately but he had such an unusual CV that at our first meeting I couldn't make it all hang together."

The second meeting changed all that and he remembers: "My perception was that he was an attractive and diverse person who had got lots of interesting talents and nicely offbeat views." But what clinched it was "that he was absolutely different to me. It is very important that two people working together approach problems differently otherwise its boring. You know what goes on inside your own head and you need somebody else to stimulate the brain, and you don't want to get mirror images of yourself. And Peter is as different from me as you can come".

Just how useful the differences are became clear from the outset when the two men sat down to try to tackle the society's spiralling problems. Rowland had already taken a significant step in getting the ball rolling. Twelve months earlier he had led the task force which identified the market's problems and put forward radical proposals to restore its battered capital base, overhaul its regulation and improve its lamentable decline in competitiveness.

But the problems mounted, in number and severity, as the market's losses escalated swiftly to top the £5 billion mark. Names became increasingly hostile and turned in their droves to the courts to fight for compensation. They were no longer content with platitudes from management and demanded changes from its hitherto secretive approach.

The problems called for some original thinking and a directness and openness lacking in the market's 300-year history. "Peter is genuinely creative. He produces ideas and not all that many people do that. He does produce some extremely good ideas and that's enormously helpful because when you are stuck in a situation Peter has a thought on the way we might get through it."

> 'You need somebody to stimulate the brain, you don't want mirror images of yourself. Peter is as different from me as you can get'

One of his first ideas was to fill the gaping void between the executive management and names by opening up channels of communication between them. Another change he initiated was to invite names to help the management resolve Lloyd's problems. He was often seen walking round the underwriting floor and he tried to move his and Rowland's offices down from the heavenly heights of the twelfth floor to a more lowly location, more accessible to the market. However, the costs involved in such an exercise prevented its going ahead.

Driven by instinct, not all his ideas are workable and Rowland says on occasions he has to hold him back. "Sometimes I say 'no we can't do it like that'. My job is to help him select between his enthusiasms." As a result they often slip into the classic policemen's role of hard man, soft man, a tendency that was revealed in the run up to last week's unveiling of a £900 million settlement offer to names in an effort to end the legal disputes. "I was the ogre in the background. I often was the one saying, 'No, you can't do that'."

But, Rowland says: "I think the role of being chairman is to lead and set the tone of the pace but also to see that it works." A job he says Middleton hasn't got the experience to do yet. "I think businesses should be led by people who have got a concept and strategy of where they should go but also get it fixed, and I think if Peter became the chairman he would have to be a different man. He would have to measure things much better. I have to watch the whole time that I look at the interests of the whole society and see that we take decisions in that way."



David Rowland, left, and Peter Middleton work well together because neither "has the least ambition to do the other's job"

Peter Middleton's first impression of David Rowland was that he was "quite aloof". "He was talking about Lloyd's in a very cool way and in the early stages of our relationship I didn't understand that this was a guy who is absolutely passionate about Lloyd's and sorting it out."

Of course, he knows all that now and that the aloofness is in fact detachment. "He's superb at standing back from issues and looking at them with a perspective." Something he admits he's not good at, reacting more on instinct, jumping in with both feet while Rowland FIRST tests the water with his toe.

But the difference plays to their advantage. "I get things moving and he then works out the best solution. It's far and away the most productive and enjoyable working relationship I've ever had."

This combination proved very powerful in relation to the settlement offer. "Instinctively I knew it was important to see whether some way could be found to settle the disputes and I knew that we had to have objectivity. But it was David who actually worked it through and came up with the ideas of a legal and a financial panel."

Sometimes they disagree. But that's "healthy" says Middleton and normally they decide to "think about something overnight. I've never known a difference of opinion between us to last beyond the next morning." The need to sleep on a problem becomes apparent when you look at their work patterns. Middleton only starts functioning fully after lunch by which time Rowland has been up and running for several hours.

"The first time we usually meet is about eight o'clock in the morning and if we've been wrestling with something then he will often say 'I woke up during the night' or 'when I got up this morning I thought this'. A lot of his moments of inspiration come in the early hours of the morning whereas I never have any useful thoughts between getting up and about midday. It just surprises me that anyone can think lucidly at eight o'clock in the morning because I can't."

The stamina of the two men has been severely tested this year with days that often last 20 hours starting at five in the morning. "It's been educational seeing how someone different from me handles what really has been pretty unrelenting pressure this year. David almost never gets ruffled whereas I'm more volatile and prone to a stream of epithets and arm waving."

Surprisingly, it was Rowland who lost his cool in one of the most public of places earlier this year. At one of the society's many extraordinary meetings Rowland reacted fiercely to a scathing attack on a council board member by Claude Gurney, a dissident name.

Middleton says: "I have worked with people throughout my working life who would not have been capable of sustaining the kind of effort that David has been put in this year and not only that, he hasn't put a foot wrong." It is an achievement he puts down to his "constant ability to take a pace back and see the wider picture and then get back into the detail".

To unwind Rowland goes for a run, a slow one, while Middleton relaxes by listening to classical music. "I do find it difficult on days when I don't get an opportunity, even if its only for half an hour, to listen to music."

They have an informal relationship, helped because their offices are within five paces of each other and the gap is governed by their personal assistants who never fail to keep the two men's feet firmly on the ground. Their informality blurs the dividing line between their roles but both men insist they hardly ever step on each other's toes.

Problems are tackled together but it is Rowland who has to ensure things are done. The buck stops with him. "It impresses me that within a framework of a very informal relationship he is capable of saying to me quite sternly 'You said you were going to do this and you haven't'. He is just being a chairman," Middleton says.

There is no pussyfooting in their relationship. Neither has to think about what they are going to say. Rowland can say an idea is silly without being concerned that Middleton will take umbrage. "In other situations you always have to spend time on the small p of politics or things that are getting in the way of the relationship. Quite often there is a personal agenda that erodes the collaboration of two people working together," Middleton says. And their ability to avoid this trap is, he says, because "the key to the success of this relationship is that neither of us has the least ambition to do the other's job".

Chrysalis focuses on media as losses top £14m

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

WHILE the ITV companies embark on a tortuous path of takeover, merger and consolidation, signs of a similar shakedown are emerging among the ranks of independent television producers.

Leading the move is Chrysalis Group, the entertainment company, which is seeking to refocus its activities in the media sector, principally in television programme making and radio, and in building a new music business.

Chrysalis's announcement yesterday of pre-tax losses of £14.6 million for the year to August 31, marks the first step in what the company hopes will be the beginning of a new chapter in its fortunes.

The losses were widely anticipated and followed the company's closure of MAM Leisure, its juke box and fruit machine hire company. Trading losses and closure costs from discontinued businesses amounted to £15.5 million, and there were further property provisions of £850,000. The comparative profit for 1992 of £5.6 million included a gain of £11.6 million from the sale of the main record business to Thorn EMI.

A tax credit of £5.6 million will reduce post-tax losses for the year to £9 million. The board has recommended the payment of a 3.25p dividend, the group's first dividend since April 1991.

Chris Wright, Chrysalis chairman, is now aiming to apply to the television production industry the strategy that he applied to building his music business over 25 years — developing a handful of record labels or "brands", each one offering a distinctive style. Although the company cannot expect to return to significant profitability during the current year, its long-term aim is to build a library of English-language programmes and a bank of intellectual property rights, which can be sold to the growing number of satellite, cable and terrestial television broadcasters throughout the world.

The company estimates that, by 1996, world-wide demand for English language television programmes will inject another £5 billion a year of demand into the independent production sector.

Following the acquisition, two weeks ago, of a 50 per cent stake in Stand & Deliver Productions, Chrysalis has acquired the 50 per cent that it does not already own of the programme-maker Red Rooster. The deal with Red Rooster is expected to be followed next year by further stake-building in the sector.

Of the 300 independent production companies in existence at present, only about a dozen can expect to make steady profits.

The sector is likely eventually to shake down to about ten major independent production groups. Chrysalis aims to be one of them.

The company is also seeking to develop its interest in the commercial radio sector, having won the franchise for the West Midlands regional radio licence through its subsidiary Heart FM.

In November, Chrysalis secured a $17.5 million investment in its new music business, Echo, from Pony Canyon, the music division of the Japanese media group Fujisankei, before it had even signed its first artists.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Fisons farrago

Yet the story behind the rise and near collapse of Fisons is far more dramatic even than the disastrous figures imply. It is a tale of over-reaching ambition, greed, deceit and of incompetence on a grand scale . . .

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

TEMPUS

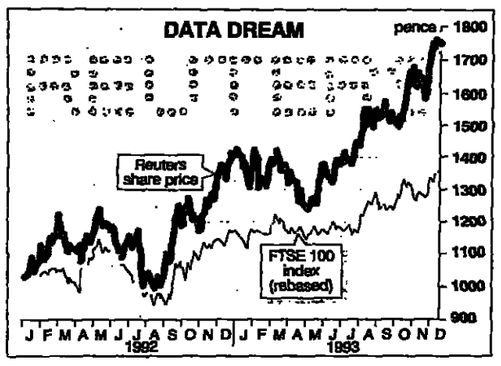
British Gas bites the bullet as Heseltine holds fire

THERE was a sense of exasperation in British Gas's announcement that it is restructuring into five discreet divisions. The group has waited in vain since Wednesday for Michael Heseltine to reveal his decision on demerger and the future of the domestic monopoly. Now Parliament has risen for the Christmas holiday there is a fair chance that the announcement will be delayed until new year.

So British Gas has gone ahead and outlined its plans anyway. The group's desire to split into five vertical divisions is not new: Cedric Brown, chief executive, has been talking about it since the summer. Until now the company has delayed an official statement until its future became clearer.

One reason for the timing of the statement looks purely financial. The reorganisation comes with 20,000 job losses in the next three years. By putting its plans in print before the year-end, British Gas can include a provision for the shake-up in its uninspiring 1993 figures. Taken as one lump it could be as high as £600 million.

British Gas is making a virtue out of necessity in this reorganisation, since it needed to separate its transportation business from the rest of the group, and the MMC's proposed demerger could send the supply business whizzing out of the group completely, however unlikely this now looks. But by moving away from its present regional structure, British Gas has set itself a demanding challenge, since it plans to cut its staff by almost a third by 1997, even though it has already shed 33,000 employees since privatisation in 1986. The process will include a reduction in the number of management levels from 11 to six, something the group should have done years ago.



The potential cost savings from the new initiative are huge, probably as much as £500 million a year by the end of the decade. This should go some way towards countering the pressure the independent suppliers are exerting on the group's bottom line.

The past 18 months of regulatory wrangling have been frustrating and nerve-wracking for British Gas shareholders, but they have done the group some good. For the first time it has needed to question its future direction and efficiency rather than relying on its monopoly status. Mr Heseltine must not damage this with an unbalanced response to the MMC report.

Reuters

CONSIDERING that Reuters has a reputation for prudence, it is astonishing to see it buy a six-year-old company, with virtually no net assets, for 25 times historic earnings. More astounding is that Reuters is prepared to pay $125 million for Teknekron, but take no overall control of the company's management and is prepared to settle for a minority position on the board, appointing only two of its five directors.

Even these pale into insignificance with the "stock appreciation" rights that Reuters has agreed to set up for Teknekron's already well-rewarded employees. The group is understandably cagey about the terms of the scheme but it seems to amount to a virtual unlimited earn-out agreement, and Reuters could still be paying out heavy cash bonuses in the next century.

Despite its denials, Reuters seems to be intent on taking a stranglehold on the market for information delivery systems, the software that puts its data on the screens of the world's dealing rooms. Teknekron's system, the Teknekron Information Bus, together with Reuters' own Triarch system, are used by a large proportion of the world's financial firms.

But even by its own admission, the market for trading systems has low barriers to entry and new rivals can appear from nowhere in months. Teknekron itself does not have much of a history. Besides, all trading systems have to be open so they can accept data from any provider, so Reuters gains no advantage over the competition by controlling the delivery mechanism.

Any deal like this, where the price is so high that the buyer resorts to revealing the tax advantages of paying it, should be viewed with scepticism. The most positive aspect of the acquisition is that it is small enough not to damage Reuters too badly if it all ends in tears. If Reuters is prepared to throw its money around like this, one should be thankful that it already handed much of its cash back to shareholders with its £348 million share buy-in three months ago.

Kingfisher

FEARS that Darty is proving a heavy burden for Kingfisher since its acquisition in June were partially allayed by figures from the French electrical retailer for the year to August 31. Admittedly they do not tell the market much it did not already know, since the group was only part of the Kingfisher group for three months before the end of its financial year and Kingfisher had already announced the first two months in its interim figures.

But the overall impression in Darty's figures is of a retailer trading through the French recession rather than being overwhelmed. Profits during August were £7.1 million, only marginally lower than June and July despite the summer holiday. While there was a 4 per cent fall in like-for-like sales during the year, the decline in the group's overall sales was less than 1.1 per cent compared with a 2.1 per cent contraction in the total market.

Darty is a high-class operation whose statistics outshine the rest of Kingfisher. It has operating margins of 9 per cent, 50 per cent higher than the group average, while sales per sq ft are £600, compared with £430 at Comet. If Darty can maintain such ratios it may not be an instant bonanza for Kingfisher, but at least it will not be a black hole.

REVISED INTEREST RATES
FROM 16th DECEMBER 1993

CURRENT ISSUES	%GROSS	%NET*
NINETY DAY ACCOUNT		
£50,000+	6.65 (6.10)	4.99 (4.58)
£25,000+	5.75 (5.20)	4.31 (3.90)
£10,000+	5.15 (4.60)	3.86 (3.45)
£ 5,000+	4.40 (3.85)	3.30 (2.89)
£ 500+	4.10 –	3.08 –
MONEY MASTER ACCOUNT		
£20,000+	5.00 (4.30)	3.75 (3.23)
£10,000+	4.55 (3.85)	3.41 (2.89)
£ 5,000+	3.70 (3.00)	2.78 (2.25)
£ 250+	3.00 (2.30)	2.25 (1.73)
£ 1+	0.50 –	0.38 –
TESSA	6.25	–
CHILDREN'S A/C	6.00	4.50
PREFERENCE SHARES	0.50	0.38
DEPOSITS	0.50	0.38
SHORT TERM DEPOSIT A/C	0.50	0.38
NON RESIDENTS A/C	3.50	–
CHARITIES A/C	5.00	–
CLOSED ISSUES		
HIGH INCOME BOND (1st and 2nd ISSUE)		
£50,000+	7.30 (6.80)	5.48 (5.10)
£25,000+	7.00 (6.50)	5.25 (4.88)
£10,000+	6.80 (6.30)	5.10 (4.73)
£ 5,000+	6.45 (5.95)	4.84 (4.46)
SIXTY DAY ACCOUNT		
£50,000+	5.45 (4.80)	4.09 (3.60)
£25,000+	4.75 (4.10)	3.56 (3.08)
£10,000+	4.20 (3.55)	3.15 (2.66)
£ 5,000+	3.45 (2.80)	2.59 (2.10)
£ 500+	3.30 –	2.48 –
INVESTING SHARES	0.85	0.64
SOVEREIGN SHARES	1.30	0.98
HIGH OPTION TERM SHARES		
11th Issue	3.00	2.25
12th Issue	3.30	2.48
13th Issue	3.80	2.85
14th Issue	3.50	2.63
15th Issue:–		
£25,000+	4.50	3.38
£10,000+	4.00	3.00
£ 5,000+	3.50	2.63
£ 500+	3.00	2.25
16th Issue	4.00	3.00
17th Issue:–		
£25,000+	4.35	3.26
£ 500+	4.00	3.00
18th Issue	5.70 (5.00)	4.28 (3.75)
19th Issue	6.50 (5.80)	4.88 (4.35)

Monthly Rates shown in brackets.
Interest will be payable net of the basic rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or, subject to the required certification, gross. The Net* Rate is shown for illustrative purposes only and assumes tax at the basic rate of 25%.
Interest rates quoted may vary.
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Forecaster Knight ready to have his day

EVERYONE laughed at Nick Knight, of Nomura International, when he originally forecast that the equity market would hit 3,500 before the end of 1993, but it now looks as though he will have the last laugh.

It was just four days after sterling left the exchange-rate mechanism in September last year that he made his forecast. Not unnaturally, he was standing by his prediction last night. He told *The Times*: "Of course, we are sticking with it. If anything, it may turn out to be on the low side."

He is now forecasting that the equity market will continue to make headway, hitting 3,700 early in the new year.

Yesterday, the FT-SE 100 index briefly flirted with the 3,350 level, touching a new intra-trading high of 3,350.8 as hopes of another cut in bank base rates continued to grip investors' imaginations.

Market-makers also remained under immense pressure as they struggled to cover

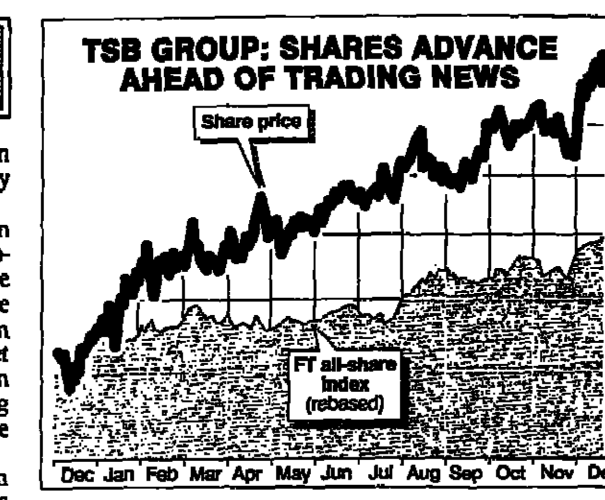
STOCK MARKET

short positions in a situation that has been exacerbated by the absence of sellers.

However, it failed to hold on to its best of the day, with profit-taking and the expiry of the December series of the future combining to take their toll. An opening rise on Wall Street helped to underpin the London market, with the index closing 25.9 points up at 3,337.1, a rise on the week of 75.8.

The drinks sector came in for a long awaited push as Kleinwort Benson, the broker, urged clients to go overweight after a relatively trouble-free reporting season. Kleinwort is a buyer of **Grand Metropolitan**, up 8p at 451p, **Allied-Lyons**, 8p dearer at 643p, and **Whitbread**, 3p better at 581p. *But it is not so struck on* **Guinness**, 1p lighter at 481p, and **Bass**, 8p firmer at 566p.

Northern Foods fell 8½p to



207½p and NFC lost 7½p to 221½p as they came out of the index. They will be replaced as constituents on Monday by **Eastern Electricity**, up 22p at 694p, and **Scottish Hydro**, 2p firmer at 470p.

Asda responded to half-year figures at the top end of City forecasts with a rise of 1p to 56p. Pre-tax profits were 82 per cent higher at £83.9 million, assisted by a sharp drop in interest charges after January's £347 million rights issue. Borrowings are down from £471.6 million to £55.3 million.

Kingfisher quickly recovered an early fall to finish the session 7p better at 717p after figures from Darty, its newly acquired French electrical retailing subsidiary. These showed pre-tax profits down 6 per cent at at Fr1 billion. Darty contributed £23.4 million to Kingfisher group profits during the summer. Earlier this week, there had been fears that the Darty figures would be sharply lower.

TSB Group, up 10p to 250p, continues to go from strength to strength before full-year figures due in the middle of next month. These are expected to show pre-tax profits recovering from last year's lowly figure of £7 million to about £261 million.

NatWest Securities said that mortgage margins remained under pressure, but that this situation was offset by improving credit trends. The group has scope to be generous with the dividend.

Speculation about the disposal of Hill Samuel, its loss-making merchant banking arm, appears to have receded for the time being.

Steel Burrill Jones, the insurance broker, was unchanged at 117p after confirming that the recent fall in the share price had been down to the loss of an important client at Nelson Steavenson Bloodstock, its subsidiary.

The loss of the account amounts to less than 2 per cent of group turnover and will not have an impact on results in 1993, which are line with earlier expectations.

Shares of **Beckenham Group**, which is quoted on the USM, were suspended at 2½p before the publication of refinancing proposals.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: gilts experienced a further flattening of the yield curve as prices at the longer end continued to advance. In the futures market, the December series of the Long Gilt rose £17/32 to £119 27/32 as 30,000 contracts were completed.

In the cash market, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 rose almost £3/8 to £126 21/32, while in shorts, Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 was three ticks better at £115 15/16.

MICHAEL CLARK

WALL STREET

New York — The strength of IBM's shares led a rally in blue chip shares into midday trading. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 18.73 points to 3,744.87. Advancing issues led declining shares by about 12 to seven. Alfred Goldman, of AG Edwards & Sons, said: "More and more firms are getting interested in the turnround [in IBM]. It's obviously helping the whole market." IBM rose 1¾ to 59¼. Mr Goldman said that IBM could run into resistance at the 60-62 level. Other analysts said that with the Eastman Kodak's image tarnished, turnround money was now pouring into IBM. Mr Goldman said issues were responding well to triple-witching expirations. *(Reuter)*

	Dec 17 midday	Dec 16 close
AMP Inc	61¼	61
AMR Corp	68¼	68¼
Abbott Labs	28¼	28¾
Aetna Life	59⅝	59⅝
Ahmanson (HF)	19¼	19
Air Prod & Chem	45¼	45
Albertson's	26⅝	26¾
Alcan Alumnm	20⅝	21¼
Alco Standard	53⅝	53⅝
Allied Signal	76¼	75¾
Alum Co of Am	70⅞	70¾
Amax Gold Inc	6¼	6⅞
Amerada Hess	43	42⅞
Amer Brands	33⅝	33¾
Amer Cyanamid	49⅝	50⅝
Amer El Power	36⅞	37
Amer Express	30⅛	30¼
Amer Genl Corp	27⅛	27⅝
Amer Home Pr	62⅞	62⅝
Amer Intl	88⅞	88
Amer Stores	43⅝	44¼
Amer T & T	54⅞	55⅞
Ameritech	78	77⅞
Amoco	52⅝	52⅞
Anheuser-Busch	48⅞	48¾
Apple Computer	29⅛	29⅞
Archer Daniels	23⅞	23⅜
Arkla	7⅛	7⅛
Armco	6	6
Armstrng Wrld	48⅞	48⅞
Asarco	21⅛	21⅜
Ashland Oil	31¼	31¼
Atl Richfield	103⅝	102⅞
Auto Data Pro	55⅞	55⅝
Avery Dennison	29⅛	29⅞
Avon Products	48⅞	48⅝
Baker Hughes	19⅞	19⅞
Baltim Gas & El	25⅝	25⅝
Banc One	39⅛	38⅞
BankAmerica	46⅝	46¼
Bank of NY	57⅛	56⅝
Bankers Tr NY	78⅝	77⅝
Barnett Banks	40⅞	40⅞
Bausch & Lomb	51⅛	51¼
Baxter Intl	23⅞	23⅜
Becton Dicknsn	35⅝	35⅝
Bell Atlantic	60	60⅝
BellSouth	57⅞	57
Black & Decker	20	19⅞
Block (H&R)	41⅛	41¼
Boeing	44⅛	44
Boise Cascade	24⅞	23⅞
Borden Inc	18	17⅞
Bristol Myrs Sq	58⅝	58⅝
Browning Ferris	26⅝	26¼
Burlington Nthn	56⅞	57
CBS	298⅞	298⅝
CNA Financial	79⅛	77⅛
CPC Intl	46⅛	46⅛
CSX	85⅞	85⅞
Campbell Soup	42⅝	42⅞
Can Pacific	16	16⅛
Cpd Cities ABC	636	639⅞
Cpd Holdings	38⅞	38⅛
Carolina Pwr	29⅝	29⅝
Caterpillar	86⅞	86⅞
Central & SW	30⅛	30⅛
Champion Intl	32⅛	32⅝
Chase Manhat	34⅛	33⅞
Chemical Bk	39⅞	39
Chevron Corp	84⅞	84⅛
Chrysler	54⅛	53⅝
Chubb Corp	79⅛	78⅛
Cigna Corp	63⅝	62⅞
Citicorp	36⅛	35⅞
Clorox	52⅞	52⅞
Coastal Corp	27⅞	27⅝
Coca Cola	43⅛	43⅝
Colgate-Palmolive	60⅝	60⅝
Columbia Gas	23⅞	23⅞
Commonw Ed	29⅞	29⅞
Compaq Comp	74⅞	74
Comp Ass Int	40⅛	40⅞
Conagra	29⅛	25⅞
Cons Edison	31⅝	31⅝
Cons Nat Gas	43⅞	43⅞
Cons Rail	64	63⅞
Cooper Inds	48⅝	48⅝
Corning Inc	26⅛	25⅞
Crown Cork	40⅞	40
Dana Corp	55	54⅞
Dayton Hudson	69⅝	70
Deere	71⅞	71
Delta Air Lines	56⅞	56⅞
Deluxe Corp	36⅞	36⅞
Detroit Edison	31⅛	31⅝
Digital Equip	35⅝	35⅝
Dillard Dept St	37⅝	37⅝
Disney (Walt)	43⅛	42⅝
Dominion Res	45⅝	45⅝
Donnelley (RR)	30	30
Dover Corp	60⅛	60
Dow Chemical	59⅝	59⅞
Dow Jones	36⅞	36⅞
Dresser	20⅞	20⅞
Duke Power	41⅝	42
Dun & Bradstreet	62⅞	62⅞
Du Pont	49⅞	49⅝
Eastman Kodak	54⅞	54⅛
Eaton Corp	50⅞	48⅞
Emerson Elec	60⅛	59⅞
Engelhard Corp	23⅞	23⅞
Enron Corp	27⅞	27⅞
Entergy Corp	35⅞	35⅞
Ethyl Corp	17⅛	17⅛
Exxon	63⅞	63⅞
FMC Corp	45⅞	45⅞
FPL Group	38⅞	38⅛
Federal Express	66⅞	68⅞
Fed Nat Mtge	77⅛	77⅞
First Chicago	43	42⅞
First Interstate	63⅛	64⅞
First Union Rlty	10⅛	10⅞
Fleet Fnl Grp	32⅞	32⅞
Fluor Corp	40⅞	40⅞
Ford Motor	63⅞	62⅞
GTE Corp	35⅞	35⅞
Gannett	56	55⅞
Gap Inc Del	39⅞	39⅞
Gen Dynamics	95⅞	94
Gen Electric	104⅛	103⅞
Gen Mills	60⅛	60⅞
Gen Motors	54⅛	54⅛
Gen Reinsurance	107⅛	108
Gen Signal	35⅞	35
Genuine Parts	36⅞	36⅞
Georgia Pac	71⅛	70⅞
Gillette	60⅞	59⅞
Glaxo ADR	21	20⅞
Goodrich (BF)	41⅛	41⅛
Goodyear Tire	43⅞	43⅞
Grace (WR)	40⅞	40
Grt Atl Pac Tea	28⅞	28⅛
Great Wstn Fin	19⅛	19
Halliburton	30⅛	30⅞
Harcourt General	32⅛	32⅞
Heinz (HJ)	35⅛	35⅞
Hercules	111⅛	110⅞
Hershey Foods	50	50
Hewlett Packard	77⅛	77⅛
Hilton Hotels	56⅛	57
Home Depot	39⅞	39⅞
Homestake Mng	22⅛	22⅞
Honeywell	33⅛	34⅛
Household Intl	32⅞	32⅞
Houston Inds	47⅛	47
Humana	17⅛	17⅛
ITT Corp	92⅞	93⅛
Illinois Tool	37⅞	36⅞
INCO	25⅞	26⅛
Ingersoll Rand	37	37
Inland Steel	32⅛	32⅞
Intel Corp	59⅞	58⅞
IBM	59⅞	57⅞
Intl Flav & Fr	113	111⅞
Intl Paper	66⅞	66⅛
James River Va	18⅞	18⅛
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	42⅞	43
K Mart	21⅛	21⅛
Kellogg	60⅛	59⅞
Kerr-McGee	44⅛	43⅞
Kimberly-Clark	50⅞	50⅛
Knight-Ridder	58⅞	58⅞
Lilly (Eli)	56⅞	56⅞
Limited Inc	17⅛	17⅛
Lin Brdcstng	110⅛	111⅛
Lincoln Nat	43⅞	42⅛
Litton	66⅛	67⅛
Liz Claiborne	21⅛	21⅛
Lockheed Corp	68⅛	68⅛
Louisiana Pac	38⅛	37⅛
MCI Commun	26⅛	26
Marriott Int	28	27⅞
Marsh & McLnn	80⅞	79⅞
Masco Corp	36⅞	37⅛
May Dept St	42⅞	42⅞
Maytag Corp	17⅛	17⅛
McCaw Cellular	51⅛	51⅛
McDonalds	57⅞	57⅛
McDonnell D	110⅛	109⅞
McGraw Hill	66⅛	66⅞
Mead Corp	44⅛	44
Medtronic	81	80⅞
Mellon Bk	52⅞	52⅞
Melville Corp	39⅞	40
Merck Inc	33⅛	33⅞
Merrill Lynch	47⅞	46⅞
Minnesota Mine	113	113
Mobil Corp	74⅞	74⅛
Monsanto	73⅞	72⅞
Morgan (JP)	72⅛	71⅞
Motorola Inc	89⅞	89⅞
Natl Medical	13⅛	13⅛
Natl Semi	15⅞	15⅞
Natl Service Ind	24⅞	24⅞
Navistar Int	23⅞	22⅞
NBD Bancorp	30⅛	30⅞
NY Times A	26⅞	26⅛
Newmont Mng	55⅞	55⅞
Niag Mohawk	20⅞	20⅞
Nike B	45	45⅞
NL Industries	5⅛	5⅛
Nordstrom	33⅞	33⅞
Norfolk Sthrn	71⅞	71⅞
Nthn State Pwr	43⅞	43⅞
Norwest Corp	24⅛	24
Nynex Corp	41⅞	41⅞
Occidental Pet	17⅛	17⅛
Ohio Edison	22⅛	22⅞
Oracle Systems	34⅛	35⅛
Oryx Energy Co	16⅛	16⅛
Owens Corning	47⅛	47
PNC Financial	29⅞	29⅞
PPG Industries	74⅞	74⅞
Paccar Inc	64⅞	64
Pacificorp	19⅛	19⅞
Pac Enterprises	25⅞	25⅞
Pac Gas & Elect	34⅞	34
Pac Telesis	56⅞	56⅞
Pall Corp	18⅞	18⅞
Panhandle East	22⅞	22⅞
Paramnt Comm	81⅛	81⅛
Parker Hannifin	36⅞	35⅞
Penney (JC)	53⅞	53⅞
Pennzoil	50⅞	53⅞
Pepsico	41	41
Pfizer	64⅞	64⅞
Phelps Dodge	49⅞	49
Philadel Elec	29	28⅞
Philip Morris	55⅞	54⅞
Phillips Pet	27⅛	27⅛
Pitney Bowes	41⅛	41⅞
Polaroid	34⅞	34⅞
PriceCostco	20⅛	19⅛
Primerica	39⅞	39⅞
Procter & Gmbl	55⅞	55
Pub Serv E & G	31⅛	31⅛
Quaker Oats	73	72⅞
Ralston Purina	37⅛	37⅞
Raychem Corp	36⅛	36⅞
Raytheon	67⅛	67⅞
Reebok Intl	28⅛	28⅛
Reynolds Metals	46⅛	45⅞
Roadway Srvcs	61⅛	61⅛
Rockwell Intl	37⅛	37⅛
Rohm & Haas	56⅞	56⅞
Royal Dutch	104⅛	103
Rubbermaid	33⅞	33⅞
Safeco Corp	55⅞	55⅞
St Paul's Cos	89	88⅞
Salomon Inc	47⅛	46⅞
Santa Fe Pac	21⅛	21⅛
Sara Lee Corp	26⅛	26⅛
Seecorp	20⅞	20⅞
Schering Plough	63⅞	63⅞
Schlumberger	57⅞	58⅞
Scott Paper	39⅞	39⅞
Seagram	28⅛	28⅞
Sears Roebuck	55⅞	55⅞
Shell Trans	63⅛	62⅞
Sherwin Wilms	35	34⅞
Skyline Corp	19	18⅞
Snap-On-Tools	38⅞	37⅞
Southern Co	44⅛	44⅞
Stwestern Bell	43	42⅞
Sprint Corp	32⅞	32⅞
Stanley Works	41⅛	41⅛
Sun Company	30⅞	29⅞
Suntrust	45⅞	44⅞
Supervalu	34⅞	34⅞
Syntex Corp	15⅛	15⅞
Sysco Corp	30⅛	30
TRW Inc	66⅛	65⅞
Tandem Comp	10⅞	10⅞
Tandy Corp	47⅛	48⅞
Telecom Corp	3	3
Teledyne	26⅛	26⅞
Temple Inland	49⅞	49⅞
Tenneco	50⅞	49⅞
Texaco	62⅞	62⅞
Texas Inst	61⅛	61⅞
Texas Utilities	43⅞	43⅞
Textron	57⅞	57⅞
Time Warner	44⅛	44⅞
Times-Mirror	35	33⅞
Timken	33⅛	33⅛
Torchmark	45⅞	44⅞
Toys R Us	41⅛	41⅛
Transamerica	57⅞	57⅞
Travelers Corp	31⅛	31⅛
Tribune	59⅞	58⅞
Tyco Labs	48	47⅞
UAL Corp	145⅛	144⅞
UST Inc	26⅞	26⅞
USX Marathon	17⅛	17⅛
Unilever NV	115⅛	115⅞
Union Camp	48	47⅞
Union Carbide	21⅛	22⅛
Union Pacific	60⅞	60⅞
Unisys Corp	12⅞	12⅞
USAir Group	13⅞	13⅞
USF&G Corp	12⅞	12⅞
US Life	36⅞	35⅞
US West	46⅞	46⅞
United Tech	61⅞	61⅞
Unocal Corp	26	26
Upjohn	29⅛	30
VF Corp	44⅛	44⅛
WMX Tech	27⅛	26⅞
Wal-Mart Stores	27⅞	27⅞
Warner-Lambert	64⅛	64
Wells Fargo	125⅛	124⅞
Westinghouse El	13⅞	13⅞
Weyerhaeuser	44	43⅞
Whirlpool	62⅞	61⅞
Whitman	16⅛	16⅛
Winn Dixie	53⅞	53⅞
Woolworth	23⅛	23⅛
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	43⅛	43⅞
Xerox	88⅛	88⅛

MARKETS AT A GLANCE

THE POUND

US $ ....1.4913 (+0.0031)
German mark...........2.5409 (-0.0044)
Exchange index ....81.6 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 ....3337.1 (+25.9)
Dow Jones ....3744.87 (+18.73)*
Nikkei Avg ....18051.91 (+262.63)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 5½%
3-month Interbank............. 5 7/16-5 5/16%
US Federal Funds................ 2 15/16%*
3-month Treas Bills....... 3.03-3.01%*
Long Bond 6.28%*

CURRENCIES

New York:	London:
£:$ 1.4910*	£:$ 1.4917
$:DM ..1.7045*	£:DM 2.5426
$:SWfr.1.4545*	£:SWfr......... 2.1697
$:Ffr ...5.8265*	£:Ffr 8.6893
$:Yen .110.08*	£:Yen 164.23
£:SDR ..1.0738	£:ECU 1.3176

London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing ($):
AM 385.80 .... PM 386.50
Close 386.00-386.50
New York:
Comex 386.25-386.75*

OIL

Brent Crude.......$13.65 per bbl (Feb)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI. 141.6 Nov (1.4%) Jan 1987=100
* Denotes midday trading price



Kenneth Prenty, left, Cementone's finance director, with Alfred Baxendale

Cementone to join market

By Philip Pangalos

CEMENTONE-BEAVER, the specialist building materials group, is joining the market through a £9 million reverse takeover of Multitrust, the investment trust.

The company will be capitalised at about £16 million after the deal involving a £2.8 million rights issue and a £4.6 million placing at a price of 73p a share.

Cementone-Beaver can trace its origins to 1776 when Joseph Freeman & Son was formed to make paint and printing ink. In the 1920s, the name Cementone was first used when the company started making chemicals for mixing with cement. It became Cementone-Beaver after the Beaver group bought it.

The company, which makes speciality chemicals and paint, forecasts profits of £1.2 million for this year. The enlarged group is forecast to make pro forma profits of about £1.5 million. At the 73p issue price, it is on a pro forma p/e multiple of 15.9 times and will yield 4.3 per cent.

Alfred Baxendale, Cementone-Beaver's chief executive, said the company was looking forward to taking advantage of the opportunities that would become available as a result of the group's enhanced financial position and listed status.

Multitrust's investment portfolio of £2.3 million will be sold off.

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Lloyds Insce (100)	93	...
Amicable Smlr Ent (100)	101	...
Azlan (230)	264	...
Badgerline (115)	110	...
Biotrace Intl (130)	150	...
CLM Insce (100)	105	+2
Celltech (250)	225	...
DFS Furniture (260)	308	+4
Fairbairn Euro Smlr (100)	98	...
Fenchurch (180)	172	+3
Finsbury Undrwrtng Inv	108	...
For & Col Smlr (100)	101	+½
Gartmore (168)	192	+4
Govett High Inc (100)	109	...
Harmony Leisure Wts	4	-½
Hozelock (250)	249	...
Inspirations (100)	110	...
Johnson Fry Utils (100)	118	+6
Johnson Fry Zero Pf (100)	105¾	+½
Kleinwort 2nd End Pol (50)	52½	...
Lilliput (135)	120	...
Litho Supplies (190)	215	+1
London Industrial (320)	343	+7
Masthead Insce (100)	108	...
Mercury World Mng (100)	105	+4½
Mercury World Mng Wts	45	+2½
Morgan Gren Eqty C (100)	106	+2
NM Smllr Aust (100)	100½	+½
NM Smllr Wts	45	...
Nelson Hurst (140)	145	+2
New London Capital (100)	97	...
On Demand Info (78)	108	...
Pilot Inv C (100)	100	...
Premium Trust	94	...
Premium Undrwrtng	121	...
Royal Doulton	226	+1
Ruberoid (150)	173	...
Syndicate Capital (100)	95	...
Syndicate Capital Wts	36	...
Telspec (160)	198	-3
Wigmore Property Inv (100)	99	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Banner Homes n/p (89)	28	...
Hilclare n/p (36)	4	...
Wyevale Garden n/p (152)	19	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Lloyds .... 645p (+15p)
SG Warburg .... 898p (+15p)
Mansfield .... 219p (+17p)
Abbey .... 155p (+15p)
Heywood Williams .. 430p (+16p)
Meyer Int .... 537p (+14p)
RMC Group .... 957p (+12p)
Wolstenholme Rink . 565p (+17p)
Vendome .... 395p (+22p)
Reed Int .... 844p (+17p)
David Smith .... 397p (+12p)
Fairline Boats .... 314p (+16p)
Stanley Leisure .... 282p (+17p)
Govett .... 352p (+16p)

FALLS:

Inchcape .... 550p (-11p)
Betterware .... 133p (-12p)
Mitel .... 360p (-20p)
Hunterprint .... 19p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 29

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 071 538 8880				
Series Mngd Fd	445.50	471.50	+7.80	...
Series Equity	569.60	602.80	+14.30	...
Series Prop Fd	423.60	448.30	+0.70	...
Series Fixed Int	335.90	355.50	+1.40	...
Series Money Fd	243.80	258.00	+0.30	...
Series Oseas Fd	344.40	364.50	+3.60	...
AETNA LIFE INSURANCE 242 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD 0800 010575				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	17.50	18.43	+0.01	...
Bear	19.97	21.03	+0.17	...
Owl	20.18	21.25	+0.24	...
Bull	18.17	19.13	+0.20	...
Stag	18.96	19.96	+0.17	...
Gilt Edged	19.55	19.55	+0.09	...
Deposit	15.40	15.40	+0.01	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	23.43	24.67	+0.02	...
Bear	27.03	28.46	-0.29	...
Owl	27.30	28.74	-0.40	...
Bull	23.28	24.51	-0.30	...
Stag	23.56	24.81	+0.26	...
Gilt Edged	24.14	24.14	+0.11	...
Deposit	19.62	19.62	+0.02	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	585.90	585.91	+3.77	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	345.98	364.19	-2.20	...
N Amer Equity	293.89	309.36	-1.97	...
Far East Equity	435.47	458.39	+14.11	...
Fixed	306.48	322.62	+1.51	...
Cash Deposit	198.52	208.97	+0.16	...
Property	148.75	156.69	+1.20	...
Special Opp	348.12	366.45	+0.72	...
Managed	309.48	325.77	+2.79	...
Index-Linked Fd	199.64	210.15	+2.06	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 0202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	260.30	274.10	+0.30	...
-do- Acc	475.50	500.60	+0.40	...
Equity Fd Inc	175.70	185.00	+3.70	...
-do- Acc	228.10	240.20	+4.90	...
Selective Fd	489.30	515.10	+5.90	...
Money Fd	365.00	384.30	+0.20	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	370.40	389.90	+0.20	...
Equity Ser 4	217.50	229.00	+3.60	...
Man Ser 4	670.40	705.70	+9.50	...
Conv Ser 4	319.20	336.10	-0.20	...
Money Ser 4	318.90	335.70	+0.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	360.70	379.70	+3.00	...
American Ser 4	499.80	526.20	-1.10	...
High Inc Ser 4	668.20	703.40	+13.20	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	219.60	231.20	+2.50	...
Japan Ser 4	340.20	358.20	+8.50	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 0707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1576.0	1658.9	+35.10	...
European Fd Acc	355.50	374.10	+0.10	...
Fixed Int Acc	560.60	590.10	+4.80	...
Gtd Money Acc	324.10	341.10	+0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	588.60	619.50	+6.70	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	334.10	351.60	+1.10	...
Japan Fund	279.70	294.40	+8.10	...
N American Acc	319.40	336.20	-1.40	...
Prop Fd Acc	394.50	415.20	-2.10	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1052.1	1107.4	+15.40	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 0793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	360.90	379.90	+0.20	...
Equity Acc	1414.2	1488.7	+22.70	...
Property Acc	507.90	534.70	-0.50	...
Far East Acc	337.80	355.60	+19.30	...
Managed Capital	544.50	573.20	+2.50	...
-do- Acc	1095.0	1152.7	+16.30	...
Overseas Acc	942.10	991.70	+15.30	...
Gilt Edged Acc	501.90	528.40	-4.00	...
Amer Equity Acc	737.60	776.50	-1.50	...
Amer Man Acc	314.90	331.50	-0.30	...
Amer Prop Acc	114.60	120.70	-0.50	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 0494 463463				
Reserve Ser 5	146.90	154.60	+0.40	...
Balncd Ser 5	701.40	738.30	+10.50	...
Opportunity Ser 5	160.50	168.90	+2.30	...
Distribution Ser 5	108.50	114.20	+1.10	...
UK Equities Ser 5	971.70	1022.8	-17.60	...
Higher Inc Ser 5	1052.4	1107.7	+17.40	...
North Amer Ser 5	432.90	455.60	-6.60	...
Far East Ser 5	559.00	588.40	+17.90	...
Europe Ser 5	354.20	372.80	+0.10	...
Intnl Ser 5	552.30	581.30	-2.40	...
Property Ser 5	480.50	505.70	-0.40	...
Fixed Int Ser 5	427.50	450.00	-1.20	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S5	188.40	198.30	+1.30	...
Gteed Dep Ser 5	282.90	303.00	+0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 081 534 5544				
Equity Acc	840.30	884.60	+14.90	...
-do- Initial	574.90	605.20	+10.30	...
Gilt Edged Acc	404.80	426.20	-3.00	...
-do- Initial	279.40	294.20	-2.10	...
International Acc	396.90	417.80	+5.40	...
-do- Initial	272.10	286.50	+3.70	...
Managed Acc	519.90	547.30	+7.70	...
-do- Initial	357.70	376.60	+5.30	...
Money Acc	282.30	297.20	+0.20	...
Property Acc	219.70	231.30	+0.40	...
-do- Initial	175.60	184.90	+0.10	...
America Acc	282.90	297.80	-0.10	...
Australia Acc	207.10	218.00	+1.00	...
Financial Acc	334.70	352.40	+3.30	...
500 Accum	431.70	454.50	+7.40	...
Japan Genl Acc	335.30	352.90	+10.60	...
Income Acc	522.50	550.00	+8.60	...
Leisure Acc	224.00	235.80	+5.40	...
Special Sits Acc	231.70	243.90	+3.50	...
Univ Tech Acc	152.00	160.10	+2.10	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 0634 834000				
The Managed Fd	800.86	800.86	+7.28	...
Income Fund	761.00	801.06	+8.12	...
Extra Income	693.48	729.98	+7.33	...
Worldwide Gth	502.60	529.06	+5.60	...
Balanced Fund	661.41	696.23	+8.78	...
Smllr Cos Recov	632.48	665.77	+4.22	...
N Amer & Genl	372.71	392.33	-5.14	...
Pacific Basin	484.51	509.80	+14.28	...
German Growth	228.53	240.56	-3.63	...
Japan Growth	168.40	177.27	+5.85	...
The UK Gth Fd	207.61	218.54	+2.46	...
Contl Euro Gth	123.81	130.33	-0.96	...
Property Fund	368.46	387.86	+1.09	...
Fixed Interest	329.60	346.95	+3.32	...
Cash Fund	275.01	289.49	+0.18	...
Managed Inv	486.25	511.85	+4.58	...
Nth Amer Recov	245.22	258.13	-5.02	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	483.33	508.77	+2.75	...
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire 0475 888000				
Measured Perf	161.93	171.30	+2.00	...
Performance Plus	158.00	167.10	+2.00	...
With Profit Perf	165.30	174.90	+0.10	...
UK Opportunity	182.30	192.90	+3.70	...
Euro Opportunity	207.30	219.30	-0.10	...
North Amer Opp	160.30	169.60	-1.70	...
Far East Opp	207.80	219.80	+6.50	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	140.60	148.00	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	165.70	175.30	...	...
Fixed Int	196.70	208.10	+0.70	...
Cash	152.00	160.80	+0.10	...
Overseas	181.90	192.40	+2.20	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 0707 51122				
Equity Growth	£238.60	...	...	...
Managed	322.60	339.60	+3.20	...
Property	213.00	224.20	+0.30	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	258.90	272.60	+2.60	...
Equity	354.30	373.00	+4.00	...
Cash	211.90	223.10	+0.30	...
CLife Euro Mgd	357.90	376.80	-0.70	...
CLife Intl Fd	355.70	374.50	+5.10	...
For Cannon see Lincoln National				
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 0908 606101				
Property Fund	179.30	188.80	...	...
Managed Fund	613.80	646.20	+5.00	...
Equity Fund	354.40	373.10	+4.60	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0272 290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	284.00	299.00	+3.10	...
Ruby	159.40	167.80	+1.70	...
Emerald	148.50	156.40	+1.10	...
Equity	326.80	344.00	+4.50	...
Property	194.30	204.60	+0.90	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	222.30	234.10	+2.40	...
Indexed Secs	175.30	184.60	+1.30	...
Cash	181.60	191.20	+0.10	...
Nth American	205.90	216.80	-1.00	...
Far East	331.00	348.50	+4.20	...
International	223.50	235.30	+1.50	...
Special Sits	306.70	322.90	+6.80	...
Intl Income	292.20	307.60	+3.00	...
American Inc	185.00	194.80	+0.70	...
European	291.70	307.10	-0.80	...
Japanese	128.50	135.30	+2.00	...
SE Asia	381.30	401.40	+8.60	...
With Profits Reg	153.80	161.90	+0.20	...
-do- Spec	153.80	161.90	+0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	317.00	333.70	+4.80	...
Equity	380.50	400.60	+8.10	...
Property	182.70	192.40	+1.30	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	272.90	287.30	+2.10	...
Index Linked	187.10	197.00	+1.10	...
Cash	239.90	252.60	+0.30	...
Nth American	257.40	271.00	-1.00	...
Far East Acc	308.30	324.60	+9.10	...
International Acc	290.20	305.50	+2.10	...
Special Sits	442.20	465.50	+7.00	...
European Flex	407.30	428.80	-0.80	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 0634 890 000				
(Unitst)-Key	£274.18	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker	£311.66	...	...	...
-do- Cash	198.55	209.00	+0.11	...
-do- Equity	530.71	558.64	+0.91	...
-do- Fxd Int	385.70	406.00	+5.61	...
-do- Managed	385.86	406.17	+5.37	...
-do- Property	345.82	364.02	+3.03	...
(Pens)- Cash Cap	206.93	217.83	+0.06	...
-do- Cash Inv	292.83	308.25	+0.29	...
-do- Equity Cap	1470.5	1547.9	+11.98	...
-do- Equity Inv	2080.9	2190.5	+18.42	...
-do- Fixed Cap	423.02	445.30	+3.82	...
-do- Fixed Inv	598.62	630.14	+5.82	...
-do- Index Cap	219.55	231.12	+2.69	...
-do- Index Inv	310.69	327.05	+4.01	...
Mngd Cap	584.13	614.89	+5.24	...
Mngd Inv	826.60	870.12	+7.99	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3. 071 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5)	£60.33	...	+3.65	...
Var Ann (5)	£92.28	...	+0.17	...
Prime: Managed	409.60	431.20	+7.40	...
Prime: UK Equity	494.10	520.20	+11.00	...
Prime: Intl Equity	311.20	327.60	+4.60	...
Prime: Property	207.10	218.10	+1.20	...
Prime: Fxd Int	256.60	270.20	+1.60	...
Prime: Index-Lnk	184.30	194.10	+2.00	...
Prime: Cash	199.20	209.70	...	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 0438 744946				
Managed Fund	1117.3	1176.1	+13.40	...
Equity Fund	1615.7	1700.7	+19.30	...
CROWN FINANCIAL Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 0483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	596.70	628.10	+8.50	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	383.70	403.80	+2.30	...
Life Equity Acc	827.50	871.00	-14.80	...
Life Money Acc	293.20	308.60	+0.10	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	830.00	873.60	-22.70	...
Life Intl Acc	497.20	523.30	+5.00	...
Life High Inc Acc	802.60	844.80	+8.40	...
Life Property Acc	245.20	258.10	+0.30	...
Crown Brit Inv A	1285.2	...	+146.90	...
Brewin Equity	705.40	742.50	+1.60	...
Life Equity Acc	234.00	246.30	...	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 0242 221311				
Secure Fund	170.00	179.00	+0.10	...
Blue Chip Fund	242.20	255.00	+4.00	...
-do- Series 2	156.40	164.70	+2.60	...
Adventurous Fd	212.40	223.60	+3.20	...
-do- Series 2	160.50	169.00	+2.50	...
Performance Fd	246.50	259.50	+3.10	...
-do- Series 2	160.50	169.00	+2.10	...
UK Pref Fxd Int	150.80	158.80	+1.10	...
UK Equity Fund	159.30	167.70	+3.10	...
Property Fund	107.80	113.50	+0.90	...
Envrnmnd Opps	155.90	164.20	+2.60	...
Euro Fund	170.70	179.70	+0.20	...
North Amer Fd	192.90	203.10	-0.40	...
Oriental Ops	239.60	252.30	+9.80	...
Japanese Fund	120.20	126.60	+3.10	...
Bd & West Life	118.10	124.40	-0.10	...
Bd & West Pen	130.40	137.30	-0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 071 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	272.80	282.70	-5.10	3.24
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 0722 413366				
Managed (Mixd)	307.80	324.00	+5.30	...
UK Equity	412.80	434.60	+8.50	...
Stewardship	347.00	365.30	+5.90	...
Overseas Equity	275.50	290.00	+4.20	...
North American	148.20	156.00	-0.20	...
Pacific Basin	163.80	172.50	+4.40	...
European	196.90	207.30	+0.70	...
Property	189.30	199.30	+0.10	...
Fixed Interest	247.00	260.00	+2.50	...
Index Linked	174.50	183.70	+2.30	...
Cash	194.20	204.50	+0.20	...
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 071 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	351.00	369.50	+8.40	...
GT Plan Wwide	514.90	542.10	+3.70	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier Street, York YO1 1HR. 0904 628982				
Managed	207.20	218.00	+3.10	...
Unitised Profits	127.10	133.70	+0.20	...
UK Equity	280.90	295.60	+4.70	...
Fixed Int	210.90	221.90	+1.20	...
Index-Linked	176.10	185.30	+1.80	...
Cash Deposit	169.70	178.50	+0.10	...
Property	168.60	177.30	+0.10	...
International	188.90	198.80	+4.40	...
American	155.30	163.30	+0.10	...
Japan	233.70	245.90	+3.70	...
Japan Smllr Cos	239.70	252.20	+3.80	...
European	178.90	188.20	+2.70	...
Pacific Fund	303.40	319.30	+6.70	...
Conv Life	139.50	146.80	+2.00	...
GENERAL PORTFOLIO LIFE Gen Portfolio House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 0279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	716.80	716.80	+8.40	...
-do- Inv A	716.70	754.60	+8.90	...
UK Equity	406.90	428.50	+8.50	...
Gilt Plus	220.70	232.40	+1.40	...
Managed	314.50	331.20	+4.00	...
Inter Man	278.00	292.70	+1.10	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 071 283 7101				
Ast Prop Bds	699.40	728.60	...	...
Managed Initial	483.60	509.10	+6.70	...
-do- Acc	674.80	710.30	+9.60	...
Equity Initial	701.30	738.60	+11.40	...
-do- Acc	979.10	1030.6	+16.30	...
Fixed Int Initial	481.40	506.70	+4.60	...
-do- Acc	671.70	707.00	+6.70	...
Intl Initial	465.50	490.00	+4.90	...
-do- Acc	649.50	683.70	+7.20	...
Nth Amer Initial	180.70	190.30	...	...
-do- Acc	229.50	241.60	...	...
Pacific Initial	253.50	266.90	+6.80	...
-do- Acc	318.90	335.70	+8.70	...
Property Initial	161.20	169.70	...	...
-do- Acc	224.70	236.50	...	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	171.90	180.90	+1.30	...
-do- Acc	217.80	229.30	+1.80	...
Deposit Initial	195.10	205.40	+0.10	...
-do- Acc	272.30	286.60	+0.20	...
Euro Initial	97.70	102.80	-0.10	...
-do- Acc	114.70	120.70	...	...
HAMBRO GUARDIAN ASSURANCE Kingsgate, 1 King Edward Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4HG. 0277 200039				
Managed	167.00	175.70	+2.30	...
-do- Pens	204.80	215.50	+3.70	...
UK Equity	166.60	175.30	+2.00	...
-do- Pens	189.50	199.40	+2.83	...
International	150.40	158.30	+1.70	...
-do- Pens	161.60	170.10	+2.20	...
Deposit	136.50	143.60	+0.10	...
-do- Pens	159.70	168.10	+0.20	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 071 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	372.80	396.70	+2.00	...
North America	347.10	369.30	-2.50	...
Far East Fund	630.90	723.40	-21.80	...
Global Managed	477.30	507.80	+4.70	...
Deposit Fund	223.00	234.80	-0.20	...
Prime Residential	126.00	132.70	...	...
European Fund	253.40	269.60	-0.60	...
Fixed Interest	70.80	75.40	-0.10	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 081 686 4355				
Security Fund	512.10	542.00	-9.00	...
British Fund	939.30	980.20	+10.80	...
International	512.60	542.50	+9.10	...
Dollar Fund	364.20	385.40	+1.20	...
Capital Fund	469.70	497.10	+9.00	...
Income Fund	713.70	755.30	+11.00	...
Property Series A	414.20	438.40	+1.10	5.60
Property Units	677.80	711.70	+1.50	...
Financial Fund	593.70	628.30	+7.60	...
Managed Ser A	545.00	576.80	+8.80	...
Managed Units	973.50	1026.9	+15.70	...
High Yield Fund	678.20	717.70	+9.30	...
Money Series A	279.50	295.80	+0.20	...
Money Units	369.10	388.60	+0.30	...
Equity Fund	618.30	654.30	+11.50	...
Fixed Interest	402.20	425.70	-3.00	...
Indexed Secs	194.30	205.70	+1.60	...
European Fund	716.30	758.00	+1.40	...
Natural Res	287.60	304.40	-9.90	...
Far East Fund	634.70	671.70	+19.50	...
Smaller Cos	469.00	496.30	+9.50	...
Special Sits	442.20	468.00	+8.90	...
Man Currency	254.30	269.20	+0.30	...
Japanese Tech	243.50	257.70	+13.00	...
US Smaller Cos	215.10	227.70	-3.50	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 0727 48181				
Global Managed	556.70	586.00	+5.10	...
Global Property	263.30	277.20	...	...
Global Fixed Int	546.70	575.50	+6.20	...
Global Equity	592.30	623.50	+5.40	...
Global Cash	207.10	218.00	+0.20	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 0452 371371				
Gtd Mgd	510.80	537.60	+4.00	...
Property	443.90	469.30	+0.40	...
Managed	419.00	441.00	+5.90	...
American	393.50	414.20	-0.70	...
UK Equity Fd	456.10	480.10	+7.60	...
Japan	201.00	211.90	+6.90	...
Index-Lkd	191.10	201.10	+1.70	...
High Yield	861.90	907.20	+13.20	...
Growth Cap	463.30	487.60	+4.00	...
Money	391.00	411.50	+0.30	...
International	386.20	406.50	+5.10	...
Henderson Active	219.10	230.60	+2.30	...
Perpetual Active	324.20	341.20	+2.30	...
Growth Cap	463.30	487.60	+4.00	...
-do- Acc	654.30	688.70	+9.20	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 0273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	135.10	142.30	...	...
-do- Acc	180.80	190.40	+0.10	...
Brit Oppr Int	142.90	150.50	+1.40	...
-do- Acc	172.20	181.30	-1.80	...
Cash Initial	167.20	176.00	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	279.20	293.90	+0.20	...
Equity Initial	669.30	704.60	+12.40	...
-do- Acc	1117.9	1176.8	+20.60	...
Fixed Initial	380.90	401.00	+3.70	...
-do- Acc	636.30	669.80	+6.30	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	145.60	153.30	+1.40	...
-do- Acc	207.60	218.60	+2.00	...
Intl Initial	357.00	375.80	+5.60	...
-do- Acc	587.20	618.20	+9.50	...
Managed Initial	488.90	514.70	+1.80	...
-do- Acc	816.70	859.70	+3.00	...
Property Initial	194.60	204.90	+0.30	...
-do- Acc	325.00	342.20	+0.50	...
LIFE ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND 113 Dundas Street, Edinburgh EH3 5EB 031 550 5000				
Managed Fund	360.70	379.70	+5.30	...
UK Equity	589.40	620.50	-10.80	...
Property	290.30	305.50	-0.10	...
Money Market	245.30	258.30	-0.10	...
Fixed Interest	344.40	362.60	+3.50	...
Japan	383.00	403.20	+7.80	...
North America	158.10	166.50	-1.00	...
International	306.60	322.80	+3.30	...
European	271.20	285.50	+0.40	...
Far East	141.10	148.60	+3.00	...
LINCOLN NATIONAL 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 081 902 8876				
Equity Units	£127.83	...	+3.58	...
Property Units	£26.61	...	...	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	£65.63	£69.08	-0.70	...
2nd Equity Acc	645.80	679.80	+10.70	...
2nd High Inc Acc	630.80	663.50	+9.30	...
2nd Property Acc	243.40	256.20	...	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	187.60	197.50	+1.00	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	474.40	499.40	+2.70	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	233.40	245.60	-1.80	...
2nd Deposit Acc	272.90	287.20	...	...
2nd Gilt Acc	324.50	341.50	+3.00	...
2nd Amer Acc	671.60	707.00	-6.80	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	258.00	271.60	-0.30	...
2nd Index Acc	214.70	226.00	+3.40	...
2nd Far East Acc	460.10	484.30	+17.70	...
2nd Global Acc	180.50	190.00	-0.30	...
2nd Euro Acc	158.30	166.70	-0.30	...
2nd Japan Acc	201.20	211.80	+14.00	...
2nd Heritage Acc	71.80	75.50	...	...
2nd Intl Cr Bd Acc	161.00	169.50	+0.10	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	129.50	136.40	+3.50	...
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6EA 0272 279179				
Equity	£912.60	...	-11.60	...
Fixed Interest	£435.20	...	+3.70	...
Property	£354.30	...	+0.40	...
Deposit	£283.00	...	+0.20	...
Mixed	£589.80	...	+6.20	...
Indexed Stock	£223.60	...	+2.30	...
International	£283.40	...	+2.70	...
Equity A	£212.10	...	+2.70	...
Fixed Int A	£193.40	...	+1.60	...
Property A	£156.00	...	+0.20	...
Deposit A	£166.60	...	+0.10	...
Mixed A	£194.10	...	+2.00	...
Index Stock A	£175.30	...	+1.80	...
International A	£177.30	...	-1.40	...
Equity P	£764.70	...	+11.80	...
Fixed Int P	£564.70	...	+4.80	...
Property P	£292.80	...	+0.50	...
Deposit P	£328.10	...	-0.40	...
Mixed P	£548.40	...	+7.20	...
Index Stock P	£254.30	...	+2.70	...
International P	£328.90	...	+3.40	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 0392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap	£632.90	...	+13.50	...
-do- Acc	£1014.5	...	+22.60	...
Property Cap	£145.20	...	...	...
-do- Acc	£224.80	...	+0.20	...
Fxd Interest Cap	£222.10	...	+2.00	...
-do- Acc	£345.30	...	+3.50	...
Equity Cap	£332.90	...	+3.30	...
-do- Acc	£533.60	...	+5.80	...
Internatl Cap	£241.90	...	+1.80	...
-do- Acc	£377.00	...	+5.20	...
Gtd Deposit Cap	£168.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc	£259.20	...	+0.10	...
Flexible Cap	£360.50	...	+3.20	...
-do- Acc	£565.60	...	+5.50	...
Moneymaker Fd	£444.80	...	+4.20	...
Capital Growth	£1673.5	...	+18.10	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 0245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	408.70	429.30	...	...
Amer Rec Bond	464.90	488.20	-7.00	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	229.00	240.50	-3.40	...
Australasia Bd	223.40	234.70	-3.40	...
Commodity Bond	295.30	310.20	+11.10	...
Deposit Bond Acc	351.40	369.10	-0.20	...
Equity Bond Acc	1454.0	1526.8	+26.70	...
European Bd Acc	358.10	376.10	+0.10	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	731.30	767.80	-12.10	...
Far East Bd Acc	339.20	356.30	+7.80	...
Gilt Bond Acc	488.40	512.90	-5.30	...
Gold Bond Acc	171.00	179.70	+6.10	...
High Yield Bond	352.90	370.30	+3.80	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	225.20	236.60	+3.00	...
International Bd	733.60	770.40	+4.70	...
Japan Bond Acc	259.40	272.40	+3.90	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	244.40	256.80	+3.10	...
Managed Bonds	875.60	919.40	+13.90	...
Prop Bond Acc	357.40	375.30	+0.50	...
Rec Bond Acc	731.60	768.30	+13.50	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 0903 204631				
UK Equity	234.80	247.20	+4.70	...
UK Equity Acc	320.20	337.10	+6.70	...
Special Sits	92.70	97.60	+0.90	...
Special Sits Acc	126.50	133.20	+1.40	...
North American	182.20	191.80	-0.40	...
N American Acc	248.50	261.60	-0.30	...
Pacific Basin	392.60	413.30	+11.30	...
Pacific Basin Acc	535.60	563.80	+15.90	...
Fixed Interest	313.70	330.30	+1.70	...
Fixed Interest Acc	428.40	451.00	+2.60	...
Property	157.30	165.60	+0.10	...
Property Acc	214.80	226.20	-0.40	...
Deposit	152.00	160.00	...	...
Deposit Acc	208.00	219.00	+0.30	...
Managed	268.30	282.50	+4.30	...
Managed Acc	337.20	355.00	+5.60	...
MANULIFE GROUP St Georges Way, Stevenage, Herts 0438 356101				
Managed Fund	707.60	744.80	+8.00	...
Property Fund	481.00	506.30	+0.10	...
Equity Fund	906.80	954.50	+17.00	...
Gilt Edged Fd	651.60	685.90	+5.20	...
Deposit Fund	320.80	337.70	+0.30	...
Investment Fd	385.00	404.30	+7.50	...
International	543.40	572.00	+1.40	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0272 266 366				
Property	424.70	447.00	+1.30	...
UK Equity	347.90	366.20	+4.00	...
Gilt Edged	630.60	663.70	-7.60	...
Interest Fund	369.50	388.90	+0.30	...
UK Fund	500.70	527.00	+11.50	...
Intl Equity	629.10	662.20	+27.90	...
Intl Managed	579.90	610.40	+22.20	...
North American	214.80	226.10	+3.30	...
Far East	497.90	524.10	+25.10	...
Intl Currency	266.00	280.00	+0.70	...
NM LIFE ASSURANCE Enterprise House, Portsmouth 0705 827733				
Equity	146.30	154.00	+1.40	...
Fixed Interest	567.90	597.20	+7.20	...
Managed	698.20	734.90	+0.10	...
Deposit	329.90	347.20	+0.10	...
Property	398.40	419.30	-0.40	...
American	408.30	430.00	-2.40	...
Australian	308.60	335.30	-2.50	...
European	513.10	540.10	-2.70	...
Global Managed	...	...	...	...
Income Acc	783.50	824.70	-6.40	...
-do- Dist	498.70	522.90	+11.20	4.62
International	316.50	333.10	+2.40	...
Japan Smaller	472.10	496.90	+10.50	...
Singapore & Mal	383.90	403.60	+11.80	...
Smaller Cos	368.60	409.00	-3.60	...
Tokyo Fund	627.00	660.00	+15.60	...
UK Equity	625.40	657.20	-13.70	...
CCM Vanguard Mg	744.40	783.50	+8.00	...
Equity Pens Cap	1011.1	1064.3	+12.80	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 071 623 4200				
Managed	482.60	508.00	+6.90	...
UK Equity	608.70	640.70	+11.70	...
Overseas Equity	472.40	497.20	+6.00	...
Americas	414.30	436.10	+4.70	...
Far East	554.30	583.40	+14.60	...
Property	199.70	210.20	-1.10	...
Fixed Interest	386.50	406.80	+4.20	...
Indexed Gilt	242.80	255.50	+2.50	...
Deposit	210.00	221.00	+0.20	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 148, Norwich NR3 1PF 0603 622200				
Managed Fund	1399.2	1472.8	+20.30	...
Eqty Fund	3073.6	3235.4	+59.70	...
Property Fd	484.50	510.00	+2.20	...
Fixed Int Fd	622.90	655.70	+4.10	...
Deposit Fund	336.50	354.20	+0.30	...
Intl Fund	236.40	248.80	+2.20	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 0733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	149.30	157.20	+0.20	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	300.60	316.50	+0.30	...
Inv Equity	1240.5	1305.8	+29.50	...
Inv Managed	851.00	895.80	+13.00	...
Ret Managed	954.00	1004.3	+19.80	...
For Prolific see Scottish Provident				
PROVIDENCE CAPITOL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 0256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	298.80	315.20	+5.80	...
Fxd Interest Acc	258.00	272.20	+3.90	...
International Acc	259.00	273.30	+4.70	...
Managed Acc	226.80	239.30	+3.30	...
Property Acc	222.40	234.60	...	...
Money Acc	149.50	157.80	+0.20	...
Spec Mkt Acc	239.10	252.30	+4.30	...
Japan Equity Acc	115.30	121.70	+3.90	...
N Amer Acc	163.70	172.70	-4.40	...
Pacific Acc	173.90	183.50	+6.50	...
European Acc	172.60	182.10	+3.70	...
PROVIDENT MUTUAL William Road, Hitchin, Herts SG4 0LP 0438 739000				
Managed Ord	468.20	492.80	+5.90	...
Managed Initial	325.80	342.90	+3.80	...
Equity Ord	708.10	745.40	+13.80	...
Equity Init	492.70	518.60	+9.20	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	214.80	226.10	+2.40	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	156.10	164.30	+1.70	...
Oseas Equity Ord	378.30	398.20	+2.20	...
Oseas Equity Init	263.20	277.10	+1.30	...
Property Ord	246.00	258.90	+0.30	...
Property Init	171.20	180.20	+0.10	...
Fixed Int Ord	296.20	311.80	+2.40	...
Fixed Int Init	206.10	216.90	+1.50	...
Deposit Ord	200.30	210.80	+0.10	...
Deposit Initial	139.40	146.70	...	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 071 405 9222				
Managed	331.00	344.80	+2.70	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FUNDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 071 548 3278				
Managed Fund	767.50	807.90	+10.00	...
Equity Fund	1489.2	1567.6	+28.70	...
Intl Fund	595.70	627.10	+4.20	...
Fixed Interest	606.10	638.00	+4.90	...
Property Fund	413.00	434.80	+2.10	...
Cash Fund	355.20	373.90	+0.50	...
Pacific Basin	365.60	384.90	+6.80	...
N American Fd	234.30	246.70	-2.70	...
Euro Fund	254.50	267.90	-0.50	...
Balanced Fund	153.70	161.80	+1.90	...
Strategic Fund	156.30	164.50	+1.80	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 0733 390000				
Mult Grow (45)	1734.20	...	...	...
-do- Acc	460.60	484.90	...	...
Op Prop	454.00	477.90	...	...
Op Equity	861.90	907.10	+8.80	...
Op High Yield	614.50	646.90	-5.60	...
Op Managed	761.30	801.40	+6.00	...
Op Deposit	381.40	401.50	+0.40	...
Inc Gth	323.90	341.00	+3.20	...
Japan Smlr	239.50	252.20	+3.70	...
Managed Gth	264.40	278.40	+3.50	...
Gilt	89.00	93.70	+1.20	...
British	390.60	411.30	-4.80	...
Global Bond	110.90	125.80	-0.30	...
Global (35,34)	180.30	189.70	+2.80	...
Gold Share	94.60	99.60	-1.70	...
High Income	315.30	331.90	+3.70	...
Income	456.00	480.00	+7.50	...
Japan	402.20	423.40	+8.40	...
UK Smlr Cos	312.40	328.90	+3.20	...
Mngd Growth	463.00	487.40	+2.70	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 051 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	945.90	1000.9	+6.80	...
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	370.80	390.70	+5.10	...
Equity Fund	541.90	569.90	+17.70	...
Property Fund	297.00	312.60	...	...
International	469.30	494.00	+4.30	...
Pacific Basin	295.80	311.30	+5.30	...
United States	247.70	260.70	-1.30	...
Gilt Fund	382.40	402.50	+1.20	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 0708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	753.50	797.40	+13.20	2.27
Deposit Fund (2)	357.60	376.50	+0.40	5.92
Gilt Fund	540.70	578.60	+5.90	7.20
Global Equity Fd	234.40	248.10	+3.00	...
Property Fund (46)	94.20	99.70	+3.00	6.22
AG Bond Fund	160.10	169.50	+3.40	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 041 248 2323				
Equity	572.10	602.30	+8.30	...
Fixed Interest	392.80	413.50	+4.00	...
Index-Linked	210.80	221.90	+2.80	...
International	449.70	473.40	+7.30	...
Property	259.50	273.20	+4.20	...
Cash	223.30	235.10	...	...
Managed	453.90	477.80	+4.70	...
Cap Gteed Bd	113.30	119.30	+1.90	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 031 556 9101				
Cash	175.99	185.25	+0.13	...
Index-Linked	171.40	180.40	+2.50	...
Fixed Interest	189.10	199.10	+1.40	...
Mixed	251.60	264.80	+3.40	...
UK Equity	241.80	254.50	+3.80	...
International	252.90	266.20	+3.20	...
American	254.60	268.00	-0.20	...
Japan	223.70	235.50	+3.20	...
European	237.50	250.00	-0.20	...
Pacific	379.70	399.70	+13.00	...
Technology	333.10	350.70	+3.70	...
Currncy/Currncy	234.00	246.30	+0.70	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 031 225 2211				
Property	193.30	203.60	+0.10	...
UK Equity	359.90	379.00	+7.70	...
American	254.60	268.10	-1.40	...
Pacific	371.50	391.20	+9.10	...
European	463.80	488.30	-0.80	...
International	315.60	332.30	+3.60	...
Fixed Interest	260.40	274.20	+2.30	...
Index Linked	209.80	221.00	+2.10	...
Deposit	188.40	198.50	+0.20	...
Managed	288.90	304.20	+4.50	...
Worldwide	128.80	135.70	+2.60	...
Pen Worldwide	137.30	144.70	+2.90	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 041 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	1629.3	1679.7	+37.00	...
Safety Fund	246.30	259.30	+2.90	...
Growth Fund	230.60	242.80	+3.10	...
Opportunity Fd	226.90	238.90	+2.40	...
Cash Fund	169.40	178.40	+0.10	...
European Fund	340.30	358.30	...	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	213.00	224.30	+2.00	...
Index-Linked Fd	193.40	203.60	+2.90	...
International Fd	290.90	306.30	+3.20	...
North American	239.50	252.20	+0.60	...
Property Fund	119.60	125.90	+0.70	...
UK Equity	244.70	257.60	+3.90	...
UK Smaller	217.80	229.30	+3.00	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 031 556 9181				
Mixed	265.80	279.90	+2.70	...
Equity	280.50	295.30	+3.50	...
International	288.80	304.10	+2.50	...
Property	204.30	215.00	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest	228.00	240.10	+1.40	...
Index Linked	189.60	199.60	+2.00	...
Cash	182.10	191.80	+0.10	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	793.80	844.50	+7.00	...
Cash Fund	328.90	346.60	+0.20	...
Property Fund	229.50	244.20	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	945.50	1005.9	+7.80	...
Fxd Interest Fund	464.30	493.50	+2.00	...
International	427.50	454.80	+4.30	...
High Income	704.50	749.50	+7.30	...
Far East	615.20	654.50	+11.70	...
North American	543.60	578.30	-7.00	...
Special Sits	634.50	675.10	+7.00	...
Technology	522.40	555.80	-4.80	...
Extra Income Fd	381.90	406.30	+4.00	...
Gilt Fund	488.80	520.00	+1.50	...
European	149.90	159.50	-0.20	...
Adventurous Mg	219.40	231.00	+1.70	...
Secure Mgd	146.50	155.90	+1.20	...
Equity Inc Dist	121.30	129.10	+0.90	4.60
North American	115.40	122.80	-0.80	5.17
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 031 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	974.00	974.90	+22.00	...
Inv Pol 2	888.10	934.90	+21.00	...
Inv Pol 3	852.90	897.90	+20.30	...
Inv Cash	304.10	320.20	+0.30	...
Mixed Fund	459.50	483.90	+8.20	...
Equity Fund	542.70	571.30	+12.10	...
Property Fund	218.30	229.90	+0.60	...
International Fd	488.00	513.80	+5.50	...
Fixed Interest Fd	400.70	421.90	+3.80	...
Indexed Stock Fd	210.90	222.10	+2.30	...
Cash Fund	221.30	232.90	+0.10	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 0703 334411				
Managed Acc	373.30	392.80	+3.20	...
Equity Acc	438.50	461.50	+3.60	...
International Acc	338.60	356.40	+5.00	...
Property	210.00	221.00	+0.20	...
Royal Trust Mg	241.00	253.60	+2.40	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 031 225 2552				
Cash	261.20	275.00	+0.20	...
Equity	1023.1	1077.0	+21.00	...
European	165.10	173.80	-0.10	...
Far East	175.80	185.10	+4.00	...
Fixed Interest	425.20	447.60	+2.90	...
Index Linked	217.60	229.10	+1.70	...
International	619.00	651.60	+5.80	...
Managed	713.50	751.10	+11.50	...
Nth American	145.30	152.90	-0.10	...
Property	331.60	349.10	-0.20	...
Pensions				
Cash	402.90	424.20	+0.40	...
Equity	1471.6	1549.1	+34.60	...
European	198.20	208.70	-0.10	...
Far East	142.00	149.50	+3.50	...
Fixed Interest	572.40	602.60	+4.30	...
Index Linked	301.60	317.50	+2.50	...
International	876.50	922.70	+8.70	...
Managed	1000.4	1053.1	+18.30	...
Nth American	181.80	191.40	-0.30	...
Property	424.20	446.60	+1.00	...
Stock Exchange	226.60	238.60	+4.90	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 0403 232323				
Managed Fund	664.70	699.70	+13.70	...
Equity Fund	889.50	936.40	+20.90	...
Fixed Interest Fd	445.90	469.40	+2.70	...
Index-Linked Fd	326.80	344.00	+3.10	...
Property Fund	476.00	501.10	+8.00	...
International Fd	634.10	667.50	+11.70	...
N American Fd	239.30	251.90	+0.50	...
Far East Fund	244.90	257.80	+7.10	...
Deposit Fund	286.90	302.00	+0.30	...
International Bd	£86.16	...	+2.27	...
Worldwide Bond	167.20	176.00	+0.30	...
Worldwide Fincl	79.90	84.20	+0.20	...
Worldwide Tech	95.00	100.00	...	...
European	158.40	166.80	-0.70	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	646.30	680.40	+6.90	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	444.80	472.90	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund	£545.80	...	+8.70	...
-do- Acc	£511.10	...	+8.10	...
Agricultural Fd	£786.60	...	+0.80	...
-do- Acc	£755.60	...	+0.60	...
Abbey Nat Fd	£416.00	...	+3.60	...
Abbey Nat Acc	£441.30	...	+3.90	...
Investment Fd	£352.00	...	+6.90	...
Investment (A)	£338.50	...	+6.70	...
Equity	£1287.9	...	+28.80	...
Equity Acc	£1236.0	...	+27.60	...
Money Fund	£455.30	...	+0.40	...
-do- Acc	£436.20	...	+0.30	...
Actuarial Fd	£591.20	...	+10.10	...
Gilt-Edged Fd	£416.50	...	+2.50	...
-do- Acc	£416.50	...	+2.50	...
Retire Annuity	£1069.8	...	...	...
Immed Annuity	£313.50	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life	£219.20	...	+0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 0256 841414				
Growth Account	£1470.6	...	+1.50	...
Managed Acc	£835.70	...	+5.10	...
Equity Account	£1181.6	...	+11.00	...
Mngd Fund Acc	386.40	406.70	+2.40	...
Equity Fund Acc	319.20	346.60	+5.10	...
Prop Fund Acc	232.50	244.70	+0.20	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	336.50	354.20	+6.40	...
Money Fund Acc	215.20	226.50	+0.10	...
Indx-Lnk Scr Ac	217.90	229.40	+0.90	...
Pers Pens Acct	£1871.9	...	+26.40	...
Pens Mngd Acct	870.20	916.00	+12.90	...
Pens Guarantee	231.90	244.20	+0.40	...
Pens Equity	326.70	343.90	...	...
Pens Property	261.60	275.30	+0.40	...
Pens Fixed Int	308.00	324.20	+6.60	...
Pens Intl	236.60	249.10	+3.90	...
Pens Money	227.80	239.80	+0.20	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	207.70	218.60	+3.40	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0272 426911				
Managed Acc	912.10	960.20	+16.20	...
Property Acc	351.70	370.30	+4.20	...
Equity Acc	1481.7	1559.7	+26.60	...
Fixed Int Acc	423.80	446.20	+3.90	...
Index-Linked Acc	217.50	229.00	+1.90	...
Cash Acc	300.60	316.50	+0.20	...
Amer Equity Acc	355.50	374.30	+0.40	...
Japan Acc	287.20	302.40	+7.90	...
Pacific Acc	399.60	420.70	+21.90	...
Far Eastern Acc	900.60	948.00	+43.00	...
International Acc	573.80	604.10	+7.00	...
Distribution Fund	302.20	318.20	+5.00	5.50
European	183.30	193.00	+0.60	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE 0264 345678				
Managed Fund	281.00	295.80	+3.50	...
Property Fund	192.90	203.20	+0.10	...
Fixed Interest Fd	234.70	247.20	+2.30	...
Money Fund	194.20	204.60	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	375.70	395.60	+5.00	...
TARGET LIFE The Exchange, 44 High Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. 0296 394000				
Deposit	242.80	255.60	+0.10	...
Financial Ser 1	49.60	53.20	+0.90	...
Fixed Interest	331.20	348.80	+0.50	...
Gold	88.20	92.90	+0.90	...
Managed	623.30	656.20	+8.30	...
Mngd Growth	192.00	202.20	+2.40	...
Mngd Opp	199.20	209.80	+1.80	...
Property	266.20	280.30	...	...
Residential Prop	94.00	99.00	...	...
TSB American	204.10	214.90	-3.10	...
TSB Brit Gwth	857.90	902.80	+15.80	...
TSB European	262.70	276.60	+1.10	...
TSB Income	412.80	434.60	+6.10	...
TSB Intl	428.80	451.30	+3.30	...
TSB Intl Inc	296.70	312.40	+1.60	...
TSB Pacific	427.10	449.70	+14.60	...
TSB Prem Inc	276.00	288.40	+3.20	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 0952 292929				
Managed Bond	712.20	750.50	+10.40	...
Money Fund	308.00	324.20	+0.30	...
Equity Fund	594.50	626.40	+16.00	...
Fixed Interest	291.60	307.20	+8.60	...
Property Fund	341.30	359.60	...	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Genl	570.70	601.40	-10.70	...
Income	745.10	785.10	+11.20	...
International Gth	615.60	648.70	+4.20	...
Capital Fund	591.60	623.40	+0.30	...
Recovery Fund	610.70	643.50	+8.20	...
Japan & General	268.30	282.60	-9.70	...

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FILM THRILLS 26

BES courts last-minute movie money

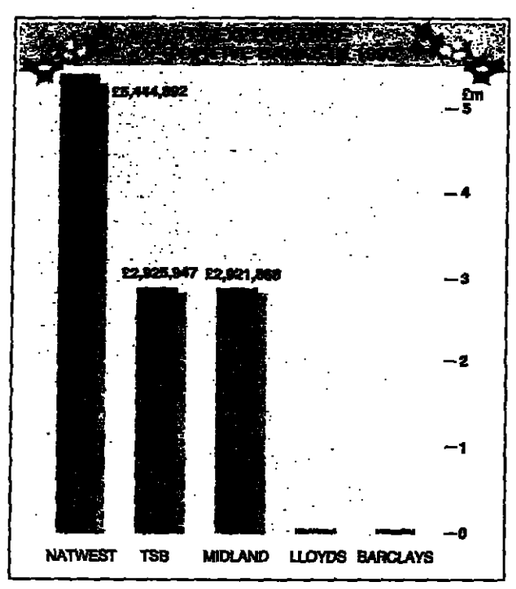
WEEKEND MONEY

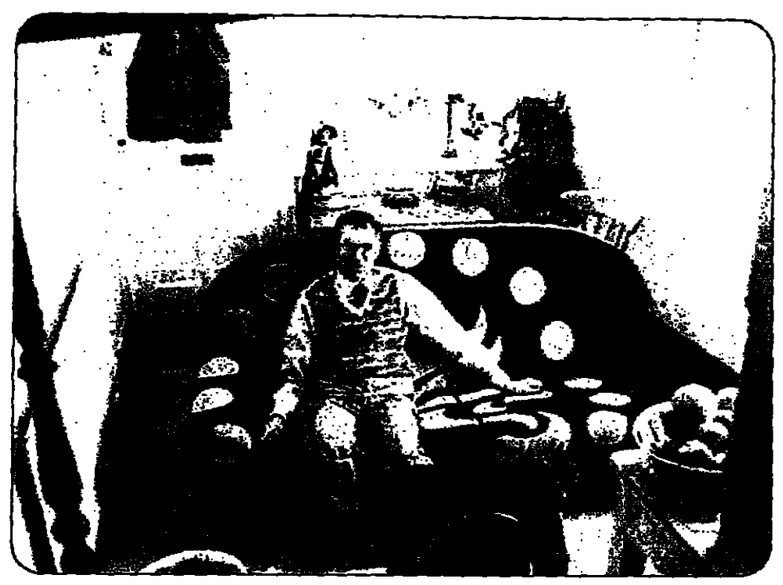
SALES SENSE 25

How to prosper in the shops this Christmas









Season's greetings to bank on

Festive season television viewers are in for renewed lobbying by banks and building societies for their custom. Robin Hunt reports

Two of the big four banks are preparing to burst upon post-prandial Christmas television viewers with major advertising campaigns. Barclays and Lloyds will be back on the nation's screens, having been away for the whole of this year.

The former has changed its agency after what has been perceived in the industry as an inability to provide strong branding. Lloyds, with its previously highly successful campaign with Rumpole of the Bailey, Nigel Havers and the majestic black horse, is expected back on screen imminently, though rivals suggest their approach is getting tired.

Mike Doyle, Abbey National's director of marketing services, says the return of the banks "is because they are probably benefiting from getting their own businesses in order". Banks' profits have been hard hit over the past few years after they lost in commercial property investments and acquired bad debts.

That point is reinforced by Mike Lavender, assistant general manager, marketing, at the Halifax. "I think the banks are back, after being very quiet for some time, more because of their balance sheets. They realise that there is a need to reassure customers. They've seen how powerful building society advertising has been."

The battle between banks and building societies is well illustrated by statistics from Media Register. At the beginning of the third Thatcher government in 1987, banks represented 52 per cent of the £160,410,200 spent by the competing organisations. They continued to have a slight lead until 1990, by when the recession was biting.

That year, building societies outspent banks for the first time — 51 per cent of the £221,443,000 joint expenditure. Since then the imbalance has shifted further. By 1992, building societies spent 67 per cent of the £167,897,600 expenditure, and banks' spending was down 26 per cent year on year, after a 31 per cent drop year on year in 1991.

This year the tide has turned, albeit slowly. Building societies still lead the way handsomely with a 61 per cent share of a market, which has grown by only £3 million on the spending nadir of 1992. Jonathan Durden, a partner at Pattison, Horswell, Durden, the media buying and planning group, said: "Last year was a difficult one. The financial sector was pushing savings-based products — people were very cautious, asking is the recession still here."

The dramatic fall in interest rates over the past two years has lessened the appeal of savings products. "Now," Mr Durden says, "there is some resurgence in mortgage applications, so advertising is attempting to persuade people to think about buying a house."

But the housing market remains sluggish, and, in the meantime, banks and building societies find themselves fighting for each other's specialised services. Mr Durden says: "They're being very ambitious, banks trying to sell mortgages, building societies trying to sell chequebook accounts."

While Barclays and Lloyds retired to the sidelines, the Midland and National Westminster remained firmly centre stage this year. The Midland is reputed to have spent £750,000 on its latest corporate advertising campaign, full of desert sequences, neanderthal men, and timid surrealism.

Martin Shaw, head of advertising for the Midland Bank, seems a little unsure of the link between his company's highly flexible "sofa" advertising *(top, right)* — which promotes the bank's many retail services — and the grandiose corporate advertising. His response to questions is: "Pass".

The fact is that, since Midland's purchase by the HSBC group, the new owners wanted to make a big statement. Well, they have. But it remains to be seen how much market share the advertisement will win.

The Midland's sofa campaign, has been targeting three key areas: the teenage market of first-time bank users, would-be mortgage holders and savings account holders. "You notice us not because our expenditure has changed — more that some of the other banks haven't been on television," Mr Shaw says.

The National Westminster has continued to be one of the largest TV spenders, overtaking the Midland this year although still behind the leading building societies.

Ian Schoolar, head of advertising and communications development at NatWest, says: "Our policy has been constant for three years. We continue to target three main areas. By far the largest is existing customers who might want additional mortgage, pension, or life assurance guidance. The second is for young adults, and the third is potential small business start-ups." A fourth market, Mr Schoolar says, is the bank's own staff. "It is important that they are aware of what we are trying to do."

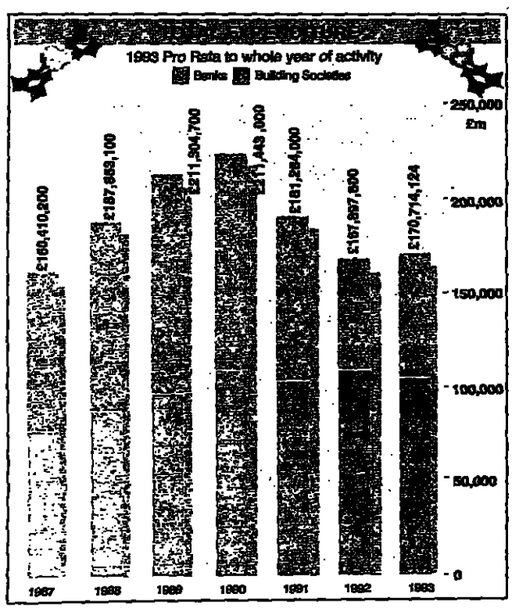
Mr Schoolar claims that the high spending by NatWest (the latest figures are for January to June this year when the bank spent £5,444,892 in comparison with the TSB's £2,925,947 and the Midland's £2,921,868) is not an attempt to kick-start a sluggish market. The bank is spending less than in 1991, though, overall, bank expenditure is predicted to rise by 21 per cent in comparison with last year. "It's just continuing what we have been doing for some time," Mr Schoolar says. Abbey's Mr Doyle agrees. "We're in there advertising to defend our core market. It is actually difficult to find a 'normal' mortgage market over the last five years — I've tried — and though obviously there isn't as much business as there was between 1988 and 1991, it is still adequate for what we need." Mr Doyle says that the building society's increased advertising activity this year has been caused to an extent by competition to promote fixed-rate mortgages.

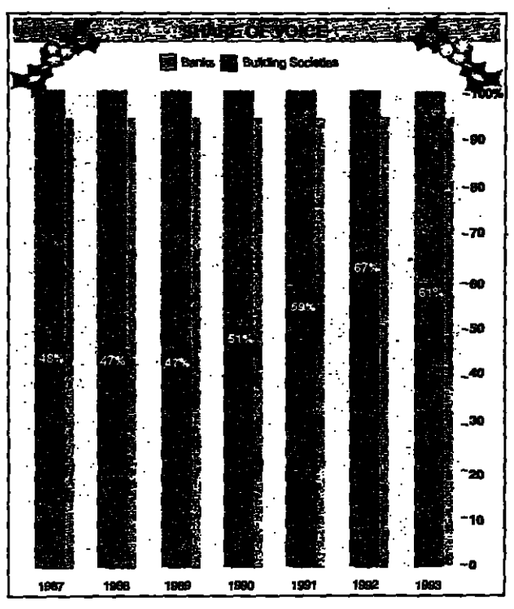
The Halifax has been a consistent spender through the troughs of the nineties. "We're not great believers in stopping spending when times get rough," says Mr Lavender. "There is a need to keep advertising even in the fallow times. We're on television to protect our brand position and to use the medium for what it is best at: demonstrating the stature of the Halifax. We do things differently from, say, the Midland, in that we put the detail in press advertising. Television — we hope, and research seems to prove this — is used to endear the customer to our services."

The Prudential insurance group has been advertising solidly throughout the recession. This year, it has spent at least £10 million on TV advertising alone, roughly the same as last year and only slightly less than it plans in 1994.

Dominic Owens, advertising manager, has a clear vision of what that expenditure gains: "TV has definitely worked for us. It has been the foundation of the success of our "I want to be..." campaign *(top, left)*. We decided that the most important function of the ads was to promote the company's image rather than any particular product. We're been concentrating on people's hopes and dreams. After all, when Cadbury advertises a chocolate bar, it doesn't go into details about the product, it tries to show how it makes you feel when you eat it. It's obvious, really."

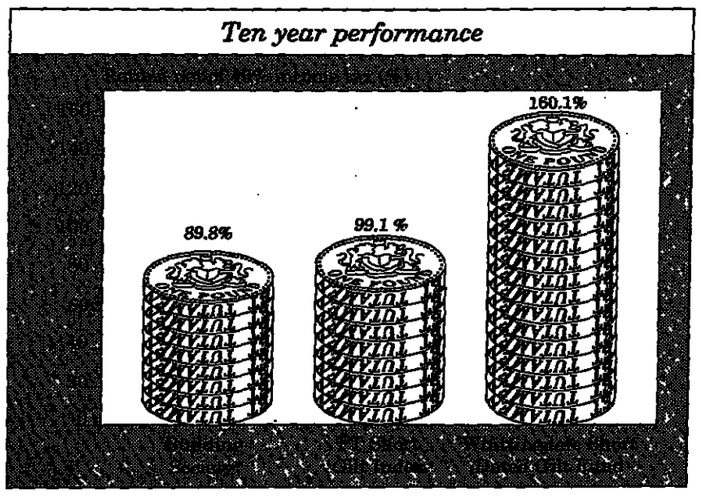
Weekend Money is edited by Rose Wild





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Ten year performance



WHITTINGDALE - THE GILT-EDGED EXPERTS

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WHITTINGDALE

GILT-EDGED EXPERTS

All performance is to the 1/12/93 and has been calculated offer to bid (after all charges) with income reinvested net of income tax at 40%. Over 5 years, the Short Dated Gilt Fund, an authorised unit trust, has given a net return of 61.1%. Tax rates and reliefs are dependent on the individual's circumstances and are subject to change. No allowance has been made for capital gains tax. Whittingdale Unit Trust Management Limited is a Member of IMRO and LAUTRO. Whittingdale Limited is a Member of IMRO. **Source: HSW Limited.*

Something nasty in pensions

COMMENT



LINDSAY COOK

Deputy Business Editor

Financial journalists receive a great many letters from insurance and pensions salespeople suggesting that they get an unfair press, that we pillory the poor lambs unjustifiably. However, even the most vitriolic user of turquoise ink must be a little embarrassed by the publication of a report this week that suggests that some 90 per cent of pension transfers may have been sold in breach of industry guidelines.

If that were not enough to cause a blush, the case of the Noble Lowndes salesmen systematically churning the investments of hundreds of clients to bolster their commission might have caused an uneasy moment.

The extent of these wrongdoings can only make every investor worry that he has misplaced his trust.

When personal pensions were launched more than five years ago, government bonuses and incentives were used by salesmen to lure people out of occupational schemes. The benefits of portability were emphasised, as was the ability to retire as young as 50. The loss of employers' contributions should have been enough to dissuade many people tempted to switch from a final salary company scheme to a personal pension, but, in many cases, the loss of what in effect is anything from 5 per cent to 15 per cent of deferred salary a year was not spelt out; nor was the loss of life insurance and permanent health insurance, which would cost tens, if not hundreds, of pounds a month to provide, individually spelt out.

Personal pensions were a bonanza just as the property boom was fizzling out. Then, as they were running out of steam, Robert Maxwell went overboard, taking with him the secret of where more than £400 million of his companies' pension fund money had gone.

Even those in the safest of blue-chip employment worried about what might happen if their company were taken over by another Maxwell and the pension fund raided. Salesmen rubbed their hands and started using scare tactics to persuade people to transfer.

Two years on, the lost benefits on pensions wrongly transferred look likely to be many times more than was plundered from the Mirror group and associated pension funds. The pension providers will have to dig deep to pay compensation, just as Noble Lowndes has already paid out £580,000 to compensate the clients who were consistently ill-advised.

That is a victory of sorts for the Financial Services Act, as is the fact that such deplorable shortcomings have finally been rumbled.

One must, however, ask what level of mis-selling might have occurred had the regulators not been there. Even cynical journalists could not guess that standards might have been sloppier. Every time we were approached by readers considering leaving perfectly good occupational schemes for the risk of the equity market — often with a less than glowing investment house — we advised them how to compare their existing scheme with the new one on offer, confident that they would stay put when they had the full picture.

Stay with the best

Maybe the Leeds and National & Provincial are made for each other after all. The two building societies abandoned plans to merge in October, but they still acted in unison this week in announcing that they are to do away with obsolete accounts (report, page 24).

The customers of the two societies need no longer fear that, when they put their savings in a top-of-the-table account it will, in a matter of months, become the worst-paying account.

Other societies will have to follow if they are not to lose customers. The move will be welcomed by savers who have been horrified to find how quickly a best rate can be turned into an abysmal one. It is not long since a major building society was defending its decision to lock customers into an inferior rate.

Maybe it is the season of goodwill that has caused this outbreak of generosity or maybe it is the fear that the new granny bond to be launched by National Savings next year will offer a very attractive rate that will lure savers out of societies.

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Source: Micropal. Over the five year period to 1st November 1993, £1,000 would have grown to £1,538.5 with net income reinvested.

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THE M&G GROUP



Home may be the safest place to spend Christmas as going away can present problems over insuring against burglaries

Sitting pretty with the house insurers

MANY people travelling away from home this Christmas have hired professional house-sitters (Jill Insley writes). But insurers may regard a house-sitter as they regard other tenants, potentially disqualifying a claim. An insurer may refuse to pay out if the property is lent or let without the insurer's prior knowledge.

Tony Kerfoot, of General Accident, says all policyholders should notify their insurer that they intend to use a house-sitter. He says: "We would want to be satisfied that it is a reputable firm." Subsequent claims would then be judged on merit. Commercial Union will waive the "let or lend" conditions if policyholders use Homesitters, an Aylesbury firm. Ian Frater, of CU, says the insurer will want more details before accepting others.

CU may turn down claims if it is not informed about the house-sitter until a claim is submitted. Mr Frater says: "If we find that someone has been employed to look after the property and a burglar has broken in, we wouldn't have a problem in paying out. If the person has an all-night party and damages the property, we would feel rather differently."

Pauline Sturgeon, a director of Homesitters, says that inevitably a few clients' homes have been burgled in the firm's 13 years' trading. But "More often than not the house-sitter has scared the burglar away". The firm recommends that anyone employing a house-sitter should make sure their contract is with the house-sitting firm rather than the sitter and that the firm has professional indemnity cover. Homesitters: 0296-630730.

Ring out old accounts, and ring in the new

Sara McConnell looks at the merits of building societies' plans to shut obsolete savings accounts

More than a million savers with money in obsolete accounts at the National & Provincial or Leeds Permanent building societies will find their funds automatically transferred in the new year into accounts paying a better rate. Those with more than £500 in an obsolete account will, in most cases, do best out of the move.

Both societies say that after two years of trying to persuade savers to leave accounts dating back, in some cases, to before the Second World War, a hard core has refused to move.

Research from the Leeds suggests that some are too attached to the colour of their passbooks to countenance a move. But move they now must. If they do not like the account selected for them they can opt for another or take their money away altogether.

The National & Provincial estimates there is £20 billion of savers' money in out-of-date building society accounts across Britain. These accounts are closed to new business and, because they do not need to attract new funds, pay very low rates. Societies came under heavy attack from several quarters, including the building societies ombudsman, a few years ago for not making enough effort to tell people they could get a better rate in an account currently on offer to new customers.

The low rates paid out on obsolete accounts are estimated to have saved the societies £800 million. Since being censured, they say they regularly send out and display rates of all existing and obsolete accounts, and train staff to tell people with out-of-date passbooks that they should move.

One Leeds Permanent branch manager, acting beyond the call of duty, visited an elderly saver in a nursing home to explain she would do better in another account.

The N&P has 40 obsolete accounts, more than most of its major competitors. Most of these are as a result of past mergers with now long forgotten smaller societies.

Two years ago, more than half N&P's savers were in obsolete accounts. A million have now moved, but there are still 600,000 people holding a total of £380 million in obsolete accounts.

The society will write once more to savers in the new year and transfer accounts to the nearest equivalent by March if it does not hear anything. This will cost the society an additional £5 million a year in extra interest on top of the £15 million the exercise has cost already, but the move will save on the cost of administration. Most N&P savers will see a significant improvement in their rate.

The Leeds has 35,000 customers with more than £500 in an obsolete account. These will be the first to be moved when one million obsolete accounts are closed over a three-month period next year. Phasing in conversion will mean no customers miss out on interest payment dates.

Other societies are not, so far, planning to sweep away obsolete accounts. Instead, they point to their increased efforts to tell people in these accounts that they would do better to move.

Savers who have resisted so far, should compare the rates on their obsolete account with the equivalent on an existing account. Those with £500 or more should almost certainly move. Many obsolete accounts pay a flat rate, which disadvantages larger savers.

Some people are too attached to the colour of their passbooks to want to move

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GOVETT STRATEGIC INVESTMENT TRUST PEP

BRIEFINGS

Entering into the spirit of the season, Norwich Union is adding a Santa Clause (sic) to two home contents insurance schemes. This will extend the sum insured by £3,000 to cover Christmas presents and extra food. The extension lasts until the end of the month, but applies only to the Contents Plus and 55 Plus schemes. Meanwhile, parents planning to buy offspring a cheap banger for Christmas have been warned by Admiral Insurance that they could easily end up paying more for the insurance than for the vehicle itself. A 19-year in London SE3 would have to pay at least £479 a year for third party, fire & theft cover, it says.

☐ Johnson Fry's French Privatisation Service enables investors to take part in up to 20 sell-offs by the French government, simply by making an initial investment. Each time shares are allocated, they will automatically be sold in time to release cash for the next issue. The success of the scheme depends, therefore, on the shares going to an immediate premium each time. There is an administration fee of £60, plus a dealing charge of £22 (£15 for amounts below £500) each time the shares are sold.

☐ Woolworth, Superdrug, Athena and Ravel are offering special discounts to TSB customers under 20. New and existing customers with FirstSave (11-15) and Interest Cheque (16-20) accounts get money-off vouchers subject to various restrictions. New customers get four discount vouchers to use in MGM Cannon cinemas if they are under 16, or four free tickets if they are 16 to 20.

☐ From January, Girobank is reducing the interest rate on its Classic Visa card from 1.69 to 1.59 per cent per month, or 22.3 per cent (23.7 per cent) APR. It is also offering current account and Visa customers a £1 in £10 discount on holidays booked through its telephone travel agency, Girobank Travel Connection, between December 27 and January 31.

☐ Chelsea Building Society is reducing its mortgage rate for new borrowers by 0.35 per cent to 7.64 per cent. It is also offering two new fixed-rate mortgages, one at 6.45 per cent for three years and the other at 7.45 per cent for five years. The administration fee is £195, £50 upfront. The Royal Bank of Scotland is offering a one-year fixed-rate mortgage at 5.25 per cent for loans of up to 80 per cent of the total value of the property. The arrangement fee is £250, or £200 if the buyer takes out an endowment, or other, policy throgh the bank's life and pensions company.

☐ Chestertons is selling 40 per cent more homes than it was a year ago and reports that the market is suffering from a lack of supply, rather than demand. Much of the interest is coming from foreign speculators.

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Christmas shopping without pain

This time of year is a minefield for customers confused about their rights. **Nicola Cole** says retailers are trying to help

ADVERTISING ARCHIVES



Unwanted or ill-fitting Christmas presents can add to the seasonal discord, as some retailers have started sales early

Returning unwanted or ill-fitting Christmas presents can cause no end of seasonal discord as retailers stagger from the Christmas rush to meet the onslaught of the sales. Year-round discounts have shrunk the sales' traditional importance, but they will still be a widespread feature of new year retailing — along with customer confusion about the precise extent of rights relating to exchanges, refunds, price displays and acceptable payment methods.

Through "customer first"-type training, store groups do seem to be making genuine efforts to help; the British Retail Consortium believes that the 90 per cent of the industry it represents does enough to raise consumer rights awareness, and says independent surveys show complaints against shops not accepting returned goods are now "almost non-existent".

Yet the Office of Fair Trading finds that its public enquiry centre "often gets calls from people who are a bit less sure about their rights in sales".

Reassuringly, these rights are *exactly the same* as on all other occasions.

Under the 1979 Sale of Goods Act, products bought from a commercial trader must be as described, and of merchantable quality — fit to do the job expected of that type. Items bought at the estimated 240,000 annual car boot sales — currently under government scrutiny — are not covered by the 1979 law.

Should a product be faulty, buyers do not have to accept a credit note, free repair or replacement if they would rather have money back: and a full refund should be payable if the goods are rejected within a legally undefined "reasonable" time, meaning as soon as possible.

If signing for delivered but uninspected goods, customers should write "goods unexamined" on the delivery note; a signature alone may be taken as acceptance of the item.

This acceptence voids the right to a refund — yet not to a discount or compensation. The entitlement is the difference between the value of the faulty goods and what was paid on the expectation they were in sound condition. Shop signs stating "No refunds given" are an offence under the 1976 Consumer Transactions Order. Nor can retailers lawfully wriggle out of giving refunds by saying "It's the manufacturer's fault" and that the customer must send the defective item back to them.

"Your contract is with the shop and it's entirely the shop's problem," advises Rebecca Evans, a barrister with the 803,000-member Consumers' Association. A trader is, nevertheless, allowed to refuse a refund if the item was clearly marked as imperfect or if specific defects were pointed out, or if the complaint is simply that the goods are the "wrong" size or colour.

What if the faulty goods were given as a present? Technically, the "contract of sale" is between buyer and seller, so there is no built-in redress without a receipt — though some stores may take the goods back and give a credit note as a goodwill gesture.

Anything displayed as available — under a "Giant Reductions!" banner, for instance — must be available, even if it has to be supplied from the window display itself.

Conflicting price indications on identical products are a common cause of public annoyance, where, for example, an item is marked at one price in the display and another on the shelf.

A price display is an "invitation to treat", not a binding offer. The customer cannot lawfully insist on paying the lower price unless able to prove intent to mislead, an offence under the 1987 Consumer Protection Act.

As to payment, traders must accept credit cards during sale periods if this is their practice at other times. They need not do so, however, if they post a prominent notice next to the usual credit card sign declaring "We do not accept credit cards in payment for sale goods", or similar words.

☐ A free booklet, *How To Put Things Right*, is available from the OFT, PO Box 2, Central Way, Feltham, Middx TW14 0TG. tel: 081-398 3405.

Negative equity rescue risks

Escape plans for debt-laden home owners contain small print snags. **Sara McConnell** reports

Lenders are shedding initial reluctance to offer borrowers a formal way out of the negative equity trap and falling over themselves to devise schemes. Most of these allow home owners whose mortgage exceeds the value of their property to transfer their debt to a new home and pay it off within a larger mortgage.

Lloyds Bank this week joined in. Anyone of "good financial track record" who has had a Lloyds current account for five years can apply for the scheme, even if their mortgage is not with Lloyds. They will be able to transfer up to £30,000 of negative equity to a new home, borrowing up to 125 per cent of the new property's value. Borrowers do not have to contribute to reducing negative equity when they move with this scheme. Abbey National and Bank of Scotland unveiled similar schemes last week. Abbey's scheme is, however, for existing borrowers only.

> 'The couple were pressed to sell by a five-person chain. Only then did they notice . . .'

Anyone considering such schemes should read the small print. With all negative equity schemes, one must, as Royston and Sarah Davis found, buy and sell at the same time.

The Davises bought a house at Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire, four years ago for £73,000. They put down a £13,000 deposit, and borrowed £60,000 from Abbey National. This year, they decided to buy a larger house nearer their workplaces, but were told that their home was worth only £50,000, leaving a £10,000 shortfall on the mortgage.

They saved up the £10,000 shortfall and worked out that they could afford a mortgage of £100,000, but could not find a lender willing to lend without a deposit, which they could not save up. They suggested to Abbey that it lend £90,000 as a mortgage and £10,000 as a loan for the deposit. The first reply was not promising. Ignoring the explanation that the Davises could not raise a deposit, Abbey suggested a 95 per cent mortgage. An alternative was to borrow 100 per cent of the property's price, which would mean the Davises paying a mortgage indemnity premium of £2,500 to protect the lender against a shortfall on a forced sale. Another way was to lend the £10,000 as an unsecured loan at an annual interest rate of 19.9 per cent, against a standard variable mortgage rate of 7.99 per cent. A complaint to Abbey won an offer of informal transfer of the £10,000 negative equity to the new home, to be repaid over 25 years at normal mortgage rate. Abbey did not then have a formal scheme for negatve equity. This offer freed the couple's £10,000 savings to be a deposit. The couple also found a buyer for their home, at £53,000, cutting negative equity to £7,000. The couple's intended buy fell through, but they were pressed to sell by a five-person chain. Only then did they notice they had to buy and sell simultaneously.

Abbey said that letting a buyer sell with a shortfall on a mortgage meant that part of a loan was not secured on property. The only way negative equity could be transferred was to sell and buy simultaneously.

The Davises sold, not wanting to lose a buyer, and paid the shortfall, but, with no deposit, cannot buy another house and have to stay with Mr Davis's father.

Mr Davis said: "We think we have done everything right. We paid our mortgage on time every month and they won't give us anything they don't give to a new customer. If we hadn't saved up everything it would be a different matter." Abbey said that the Davises, having sold, were ineligible for its new scheme.

Seasonal goodwill for savers with ecology in mind

Against the trend, a "green" building society boosts the small investor

AT A time when all the big building societies are cutting savings rates, the tiny Ecology Building Society has decided to increase its rates for small savers (Liz Dolan writes). Bob Lowman, general manager, says: "We felt that they had been punished enough. After all, the whole of the building society movement was built on small savers."

He admits that the increase, by 0.2 per cent to 1 per cent (0.75 per cent for taxpayers), might not, at first sight, appear particularly generous. However, he adds: "It must be remembered that some major institutions already pay no interest on small accounts and at least one has started to apply regular charges on these accounts if the balance falls below a specified minimum."

The EBS pays interest on all accounts, and has promised that the rate will never again fall below 1 per cent. On January 15, it is to abolish the 90-day notice requirement on its Special Investment account, which is to be renamed Eco-Instant.

This will remain tiered, and the rates have been frozen at current levels. These range from 3.23 per cent net on balances between £500 and £4,999 to 3.6 per cent net on £10,000 and above. The Tessa rate has been reduced by 0.2 per cent to 6.65 per cent, tax free. The society, founded 13 years ago, is the country's third-smallest, with 3,900 savings accounts and 350 mortgage customers. Last year, it increased profits by more than 40 per cent, and assets by 28 per cent.

As its name suggests, it will lend money only for properties that are "ecologically sound". These include derelict properties that would otherwise be abandoned, organic smallholdings and farms and homes with energy-saving features. The mortgage rate was reduced recently by 0.2 per cent to 8.4 per cent. The star savings vehicle is a one-year bond that pays 7 per cent gross (5.25 per cent net) on balances of £1,000-£10,000 (£20,000 for joint accounts). This rate is available until at least March 31. The society gives £1 per £1,000 invested to one of five different conservation charities.

☐ *The Ecology Building Society, Freepost, 18 Station Road, Cross Hills, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD20 5BR.*

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International Growth	3	29	21	105
Emerging Companies	1	43	1	86
American Growth	1	7	1	7
Far Eastern Growth	3	7	1	4
Japanese Growth	6	10	1	4
European Growth	4	7	3	6
UK Growth	1	34	1	40
Global Bond	1	231	1	1
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Pensions reviewed after wide mis-selling

Sara McConnell finds thousands of files are being reopened for signs of bad advice

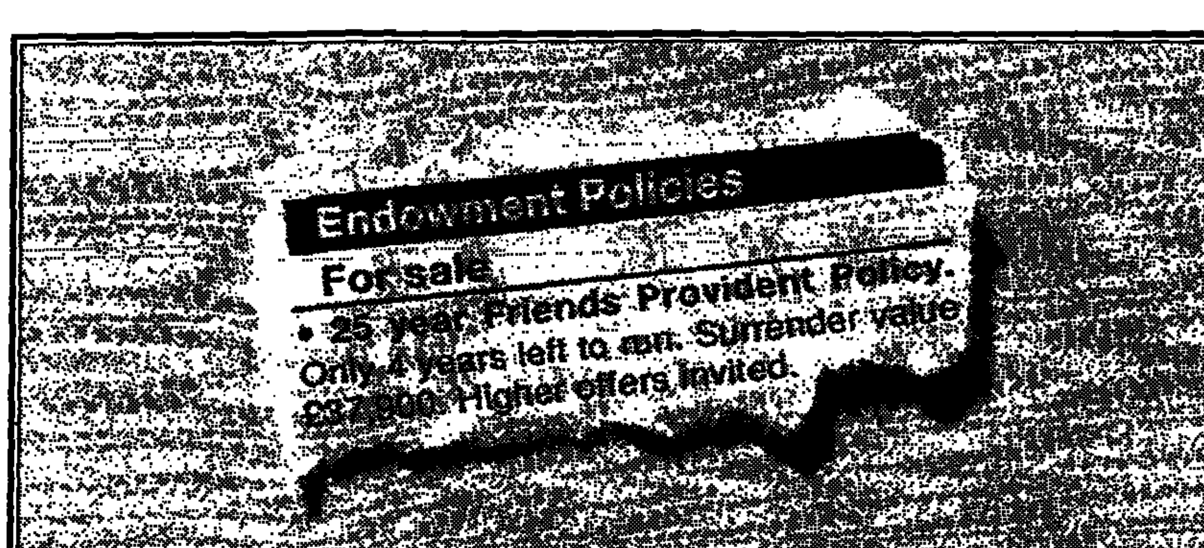
Investors persuaded to transfer out of a company pension scheme into a personal scheme over the past few years could be contacted early next year by the salesman who sold the policy. Life insurance companies are reopening the files of hundreds of thousands of people who may have been given bad advice, in advance of being told to by regulators.

Large insurance offices, including Pearl, Legal & General and Standard Life, have started to review advice given to customers transferring funds from a previous company scheme or opting out of their company scheme into a personal pension. Other insurers and independent financial advisers will also be forced by their regulators to re-examine their files, the Securities and Investments Board said last week.

The reviews have taken on an urgency following a report commissioned by SIB and published yesterday, which shows widespread mis-selling. Of 735 files examined, only 9 per cent complied with rules requiring salesmen to get details of people's existing pension arrangements and explain to customers the risks of transferring or opting out.

Pearl is reviewing 200,000 of the 280,000 personal pensions it has sold since 1988 when they first became available. It is looking most urgently for those who were encouraged to opt out of existing arrangements because they have almost certainly been wrongly advised. The company will then examine files of those transferring a lump sum from a previous company scheme to a personal pension. In some cases, this could have been good advice. Salesmen will be asked to approach investors and an independent in depth factfind will be carried out. Standard Life is reviewing a sample of the 15,000 transfers arranged by its tied agents, which include the Halifax building society and the Bank of Scotland. L & G is conducting a "preliminary review of some of its files.

SIB has told investors they should wait to be contacted by agents or brokers.



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Send these together with your full name, address and daytime contact number to: Beale Dobie & Company Limited, Valuations Department TT12BD, Fullbridge Mill, Maldon, Essex CM9 7FN.

Alternatively, you can fax everything to us on 0621 850724.

Or if you prefer, simply telephone us on 0621 851133, quoting reference TT12BD, with all the documentation mentioned above readily at hand, and we will be happy to take all the details we need from you and give you any further information you may require.

You will receive our confidential valuation within 48 hours. It's that simple.

If you currently do not wish to sell your policy, keep this advertisement with it in case there comes a time in the future when you decide to do so.

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Alec Guinness, left, in Ealing's *The Lavender Hill Mob*, and *Henry V*, a BES winner, starring Kenneth Branagh

BES lays on festive season of glamour at the movies

Robert Miller reports on film industry moves to attract funds before the schemes end

A code of conduct is currently being worked on to cover future film fund-raisers under the new Enterprise Investment Schemes which will replace Business Expansion Schemes on January 1. In the meantime, funds for British films are still being sought under the BES tax umbrella before the closing date of December 31.

Ealing Studios, for example, makers of such comedy classics as *The Lavender Hill Mob*, *Whisky Galore* and *The Ladykillers*, hopes to raise £750,000 before the deadline. The studios, bought from the BBC in 1992, are involved in several films, including *Rainbow* starring Bob Hoskins. Another film company, Bloomsbury, aims to raise £750,000.

The most famous BES film fund-raiser is Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V*. Other films made with the help of BES funds include *Leon the Pig Farmer*, *Peter's Friends*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and the yet to be released *Staggered*, starring Griff Rhys Jones and Virginia McKenna.

The BESs were originally introduced to help small cash-starved businesses, but in fact less than 1 per cent of the £1 billion invested in them this year has been directed anywhere other than the private rented property sector, and more specifically for properties let on assured tenancies. These particular schemes caught the investing public's imagination only after the promoters added the sweetener of a "contracted" exit, where investors are offered a certain exit price at the end of the five-year qualifying period for every £1 invested.

Clifford Davis of Gouldens, a firm of London solicitors, warns: "There are no contracted exits with film BES schemes. Investors get the tax relief at their own personal rate of 25 per cent or 40 per cent for the five years. After that the company is wound up or seeks a stock market listing and any profits distributed to investors."

But film buffs should tread warily. Most of the film BES schemes are less than two years old. Critical success is always welcome, but it is money at the box office and selling overseas that count.

And just because a film is made on a "low" budget does not mean that the essential costs of promoting to markets as diverse as the US or Hong Kong are similarly low. They are not.

Even if a BES film is a runaway success that money will have to reinvested in new ventures during the five-year term. And the odds on every-one being a winner are so slim that as one studio magnate said: "Backing films is like going to Las Vegas to gamble with your savings. The only thing is that Las Vegas offers better odds of a return."

Anthony Yadgaroff, managing director of the Allenbridge Group, a London firm of specialist advisers, adds that investors "must check whether the particular scheme they are interested in has nearly reached its minimum subscription level. If it has not, then there is little point in applying." Under BES rules no company can issue shares unless it has raised the minimum laid down in the prospectus. Because the schemes end on December 31 the shares must be issued by then and the investors named in the Register of Members.

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FT-SE VOLUMES

ASDA Gp	58,000	Cadbury	2,500	MEPC	1,300	Scot Power	6,400
Abbey Natl	2,600	Caradon	1,300	Marks Spr	6,200	Sears	1,800
Alld-Lyons	2,500	Carlton Cms	982	NFC	1,800	Svrn Trent	1,000
Anglian W	1,100	Coats Vty	2,400	Natwst Bk	4,200	Shell Trans	7,000
Argyll Gp	6,500	Cm Union	2,200	Nat Power	6,400	Siebe	1,800
Arjo Wiggn	2,700	Courtaulds	3,000	Nth Wst W	671	Smkl Bch	9,500
AB Foods	284	Enterpr Oil	702	Nthrn Fds	7,200	Smith Nph	1,000
BAA	2,000	Forte	3,600	P & O	1,400	Sthrn Elec	1,000
BAT Inds	3,200	GRE	1,900	Pearson	918	Std Chartd	485
BOC	1,300	GUS	2,300	PowerGen	3,700	Sun Allnce	1,100
BP	14,000	Gen Acc	717	Prudential	5,100	TI Gp	1,200
BT	8,100	Gen Elec	15,000	RMC	303	TSB	8,100
BTR	9,000	Glaxo	7,200	RTZ	2,900	Tesco	15,000
Bk of Scot	3,500	Granada	3,000	Rank Org	2,100	Thames W	1,200
Barclays	4,000	Grand Met	4,100	Reckitt Col	497	Thrn EMI	1,100
Bass	3,300	Guinness	4,900	Redland	1,100	Tomkins	1,400
Blue Circle	2,200	HSBC	3,200	Reed Intl	720	Unilever	1,600
Boots	2,900	Hanson	8,600	Rentokil	2,100	Utd Bisc	867
Bowater	4,100	ICI	960	Reuters	1,300	Vodafone	1,400
Brit Aero	6,800	Inchcape	1,900	Rolls Royce	4,900	Warburg (SG)	647
Brit Airwys	4,200	Kingfisher	4,400	Ryl Ins	5,900	Wellcome	6,500
Brit Gas	7,000	Ladbroke	5,200	Ryl Bk Scot	2,200	Whitbd 'A'	412
Brit Steel	8,100	Land Secs	850	Sainsbury	5,400	Wlms Hld	1,400
Burmah Cast	104	Legal & Gn	2,400	Schroders	491	Wolseley	613
Cable Wire	5,300	Lloyds Bk	3,000	Scot & New	1,300	Zeneca	1,900

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	3744.87 (+18.73)
S&P Composite	465.17 (+1.83)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Av'ge	18051.91 (+262.63)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10568.86 (+229.20)
Amsterdam:	
CBS Tendency	143.3 (+1.9)
Sydney: AO	2080.20 (+5.40)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2151.02 (+13.57)
FT 30 share:	2505.3 (+9.1)
Brussels:	
General	7292.88 (-35.66)
Paris: CAC-40	2196.44 (+36.18)
Zurich: SKA Gen	664.80 (+4.40)
London:	
FT A All-Share	1640.19 (+11.62)
FT 500	1746.26 (+11.37)
FT Gold Mines	247.6 (-5.9)
FT Fixed Interest	130.96 (+0.47)
FT Govt Secs	107.16 (+0.19)
Bargains	38153
SEAQ Volume	1015.6m
USM (Datastrm)	152.09 (+0.44)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
December 6	December 17	March 10	March 21

Call options were taken out on 17/12/93: ASDA, Bula Res, Eurocamp, Greycoat, Hanson Wts, Hawtin, Mercury World Mng, Nat Home Loan Pref, Prestwick, Signet, Sleepy Kids, Smith & Nephew, Standard Chartered Pref, Western Selection.
Puts: Sleepy Kids, Standard Chartered Pref. **Put & Call:** Hollas.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Dec 93	3336.0	3350.0	3326.0	3345.0	6813
Previous open interest: 78454	Mar 94	3362.0	3380.0	3346.0	3360.0	18789
Three Month Sterling	Mar 94	94.80	94.81	94.77	94.80	12882
Previous open interest: 366398	Jun 94	95.01	95.01	94.98	95.00	4624
	Sep 94	95.07	95.08	95.05	95.08	4549
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 94	96.51	96.51	96.50	96.50	462
Previous open interest: 8492	Jun 94	96.17	96.17	96.16	96.16	373
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 94	94.45	94.48	94.44	94.46	22001
Previous open interest: 688040	Jun 94	94.97	94.99	94.95	94.96	14530
Long Gilt	Dec 93	120-06	120-18	120-06	120-20	689
Previous open interest: 120345	Mar 94	119-14	120-00	119-10	119-27	31425
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 94	116.21	116.21	116.10	116.11	1231
	Jun 94				115.01	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 94	100.48	100.64	100.45	100.60	36026
Previous open interest: 144904	Jun 94	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.53	63
German Gov Bd Bobl	Mar 94	103.23	103.25	103.10	103.19	671
Previous open interest: 10874	Jun 94					0
Three month ECU	Mar 94	94.10	94.10	94.06	94.08	837
Previous open interest: 27643	Jun 94	94.59	94.65	94.59	94.60	326
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 94	96.22	96.24	96.14	96.16	10164
Previous open interest: 55893	Jun 94	96.48	96.48	96.40	96.42	1256
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 94	116.80	117.32	116.65	117.19	24137
Previous open interest: 71693	Jun 94	116.74	116.74	116.74	117.19	1

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was same at 81.6 (day's range 81.5-81.6).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 17	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.8435-2.8564	2.8469-2.8500	par-⅛ds	par-⅛ds
Brussels	52.92-53.34	52.99-53.16	7-11ds	19-27ds
Copenhagen	9.9470-9.9886	9.9470-9.9725	2⅛-3ds	5-6½ds
Dublin	1.0472-1.0514	1.0488-1.0502	5-8ds	18-24ds
Frankfurt	2.5409-2.5448	2.5412-2.5439	⅛-¼ds	⅜-⅝ds
Lisbon	258.95-260.96	259.26-260.28	124-133ds	366-382ds
Madrid	208.54-210.24	209.01-209.55	63-73ds	171-191ds
Milan	2511.35-2518.74	2511.35-2515.51	5-7ds	17-19ds
Montreal	1.9816-1.9956	1.9916-1.9956	0.33-0.27pr	0.61-0.49pr
New York	1.4885-1.4920	1.4913-1.4920	0.33-0.32pr	0.83-0.80pr
Oslo	11.0177-11.0759	11.0177-11.0438	¼-1ds	¾-1½ds
Paris	8.6819-8.6969	8.6831-8.6954	¾-1ds	2¼-2¾ds
Stockholm	12.4762-12.5406	12.4762-12.5134	1⅝-2⅞ds	4¼-5¼ds
Tokyo	163.25-164.34	164.12-164.34	½-⅜pr	1⅝-1¼pr
Vienna	17.8561-17.9366	17.8777-17.9010	¼-1⅜ds	⅞-2¼ds
Zurich	2.1684-2.1735	2.1684-2.1709	¼-⅛pr	¾-½pr

Source: Extel. Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.4870-1.4896
Australia dollar	2.1959-2.1983
Bahrain dinar	0.5545-0.5665
Brazil cruzeiro *	413.80-415.28
Cyprus pound	0.756-0.766
Finland markka	8.557-8.673
Greece drachma	361.25-368.25
Hong Kong dollar	11.5056-11.5148
India rupee	46.22-47.18
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4395-0.4495
Malaysia ringgit	3.7965-3.8005
Mexico peso	4.55-4.65
New Zealand dollar	2.6536-2.6587
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5245-5.6505
Singapore dollar	2.3721-2.3752
S Africa rand (fin)	6.6260-6.6901
S Africa rand (com)	5.0404-5.0461
U A E dirham	5.4045-5.5245

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Australia	1.4740-1.4751
Austria	11.9950-12.0025
Belgium (Com)	35.559-35.614
Canada	1.3349-1.3354
Denmark	6.6819-6.6919
France	5.8310-5.8330
Germany	1.7045-1.7065
Hong Kong	7.7250-7.7260
Ireland	1.4186-1.4201
Italy	1683.9-1685.4
Japan	109.95-110.00
Malaysia	2.5490-2.5500
Netherlands	1.9088-1.9098
Norway	7.4060-7.4080
Portugal	174.10-174.30
Singapore	1.5920-1.5930
Spain	140.10-140.20
Sweden	8.3859-8.3959
Switzerland	1.4550-1.4560

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5½ Finance Hse 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 4½ Week fixed: 6¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅛; 3 mth 5. Sell: 2 mth 5; 3 mth 4⅞.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	5⅛-5¼	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	
Sterling Money Rates	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-5
Interbank	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-5

Overnight: open 6¼, close 4½.

Local Authority Deps	5⅛	n/a	5⅛	5⅛	5
Sterling CDs	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5
Dollar CDs	3.13	n/a	3.20	3.32	3.63
Building Society CDs	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛

TREASURY BILLS: Applics: £1,011m allotted: £200m; Bids: £98.775% received: 55%: Last week: £98.785% received: 75%: Avge rate: £4.8968 % last wk £4.8683 %: Next week: £200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar	2⅞-2¾	3⅛-3	3¼-3⅛	3⅜-3¼	3¼-2½
Deutschemark	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	5⅞-5¾	6⅛-5¾
French Franc	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	5⅞-5¾	6¼-5¾
Swiss Franc	4⅛-4⅛	4⅛-4⅛	4⅛-4⅛	4⅛-4	7⅛-6⅛
Yen	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2-1⅞	2⅛-1⅞

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $385.20-385.60 Close: $386.00-386.50 High: $386.80-387.30 Low: $384.50-385.00 Krugerrand: $385.50-387.50 (£258.00-260.00)
Sovereigns: Old $90.00-92.00 (£60.00-62.00) New $90.00-92.00 (£60.00-62.00)
Platinum: $386.75 (£259.55) Silver: $4.98 (£3.335) Palladium: $125.25 (£84.05)

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Alld Lyon	600	50	64	71	4	12	24
(*642½)	650	16	33	42	22	32½	47½
Argyll	290	13	25	30½	11	15½	23½
(*284)	300	7	19½	21½	22½	27½	35½
ASDA	50	8	10	12	1½	3½	5
(*56)	60	2½	—	7	6	8½	10½
Boots	500	59½	65½	73½	3½	9	16
(*549½)	550	17	32½	42	16	26½	36
Br Airways	420	33	45½	53	8	17	24
(*443½)	460	12	23½	33	25	39½	45
BP	330	25½	33	39	5	10	15½
(*348)	360	8½	17	24	19	25½	31
Br Steel	130	8½	13½	18	4½	6½	12½
(*133)	140	3½	8½	14	10½	15½	18
C & W	500	21	35	49	16½	26	34
(*502)	525	10	24	35	31½	39½	48½
CU	600	51	59	70	3½	14	19½
(*643½)	650	15½	27	41½	21	36	42½
ICI	750	36	50	63	15	35½	44½
(*769)	800	12	24½	39½	42½	65	73
Kingfshr	700	33½	51½	62	13	25	40
(*717)	750	10½	27	37½	42½	53	65
Land Sec	750	57½	68½	77	4	11½	21
(*794½)	800	18	36	46	21	29½	43
M & S	420	20	31	36½	7	14	21
(*430½)	460	3½	15	16	32½	37½	43
Nat West	550	48½	56½	65	4½	17	23
(*590)	600	16½	27½	38	23	41½	47½
Sainsbury	420	34	50	56½	5	12½	19½
(*450)	460	10	25	34	21½	30	38½
Shell	700	27	37	49½	10½	27	33½
(*712)	750	6	14½	27	42	59	63
Smkl Bch	390	28	39½	50½	9½	19½	27½
(*404)	420	11	26	36½	25	36	43
Storehse	220	18	24½	28½	—	9½	13
(*234½)	240	5	13½	18	14½	19½	23
Trafalgar	70	8½	11½	15	3½	5½	7
(*76½)	90	3½	7	11	8½	11½	13
Unilever	1150	45½	64	85	16	38½	51½
(*1171½)	1200	19	41½	59	42½	66	75½
Zeneca	750	57	68½	81½	7½	25	37½
(*794)	800	29½	39½	54½	27	51	62½

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
Grnd Met	420	37½	43½	51½	10½	17	20½
(*451)	460	13	21½	30½	30	35½	40½
Ladbroke	140	26	29	32	5	9	13
(*159)	160	13½	18½	22	13	19½	23½
Utd Bisc	330	29½	33	38	8	15½	20½
(*347½)	360	13½	17	23½	23	33	38½

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
BAA	1000	42½	69½	86	16	32	43
(*1020)	1050	17	44	60	42½	57½	67½
Thames W	550	44	53	65	4½	12½	23½
(*565½)	600	12½	26	36½	23½	30½	49½

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
BAT Ind	500	41	47	52	11	23½	30
(*524)	550	13	21	27	35½	51½	58½
BTR	330	32½	37	42½	4½	12½	15
(*354)	360	13½	19	26	17	26½	29
Br Aero	360	41½	51	62½	14½	24	31
(*385½)	390	25	36	48	28	38½	46½
Br Telcm	460	26	36	44½	8	13	19½
(*475)	500	7½	16½	24	30	33	40½
Cadbury	493	24½	28½	—	15	27	—
(*498)	542	6	10½	—	48	60½	—
Guinness	460	34½	44	50½	11	19½	26½
(*481)	500	13½	22½	30	30	42½	49
GEC	300	27	33½	37	4	8	12½
(*320)	330	8½	16	20½	17	22	27½
Hanson	260	20½	24	27	4	8	11½
(*274½)	280	7	13	16½	12	17½	21½
LASMO	110	18	23	26½	8½	13	16
(*117)	120	11	18	22½	14½	17½	22
Lucas	180	18½	22½	27	6	10½	13½
(*190½)	200	7	13	17½	16½	21½	24½
Pilkingtn	160	17	23	26½	6	8½	12
(*171)	180	7½	13½	16½	16½	19	22½
Prudential	330	26½	31	35	6	13½	16½
(*347)	360	9½	14½	20½	21	30	33
Redland	550	53½	61	68	10½	23½	29½
(*588½)	600	24	32½	41½	29½	49½	55
Royal Ins	317	17½	—	—	15	—	—
(*317½)	346	6½	—	—	33½	—	—
Tesco	220	12½	18	22½	12	19	21
(*220)	240	5	9½	14	24½	32	33½
Vodafone	550	42½	58½	72	26	37½	49
(*560)	600	20½	36	50	56	66½	76½
Williams	330	36½	41½	45	4	11	14
(*358½)	360	16½	23	28	15	24½	28

FT-SE INDEX (*3337)

	3100	3150	3200	3250	3300	3350
Calls						
Dec	251	201	137	97	53	½
Jan	251	203	158	119	80	51
Feb	268	224	181	142	107	77
Mar	279	236	190	158	125	94
Jun	311	—	236	—	170	—
Puts						
Dec	—	—	—	—	½	7
Jan	7	9	14	23	37	60
Feb	13	19	27	38	53	74
Mar	22	29	40	52	69	89
Jun	46	—	71	—	105	—

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
Abby Nat	460	21	34½	39½	1½	14½	20½
(*479½)	500	1½	13½	20½	23½	37	42
Amstrad	40	2	5	7	1½	4½	6
(*40½)	45	1	3½	5	6	7½	9
Barclays	600	20	43	52	2½	24½	32
(*615½)	650	1	19	29½	37	55	60
Blue Circ	330	16	29	36½	2½	15	23
(*342½)	360	1½	14½	23	20½	31½	39½
Br Gas	330	29	37	41	1½	5	10
(*357)	360	4	17½	23	7½	16½	24½
Dixons	260	10½	23½	30½	4	14½	19½
(*268½)	280	2	14½	20	13	25	29½
Forte	240	21½	29	32½	1	7½	15
(*259½)	260	4	16½	20½	5	16	22½
Hillsdwn	140	12	19	21	1	6	11
(*151)	160	1	8½	9½	11	16	23½
Lonrho	130	4	12½	17	3	11½	15
(*130½)	140	1	8½	13	11	17½	21
Sears	120	9	14	16	1	4	6
(*127½)	130	2	9	9	4	9	11½
Thrn EMI	950	49	68½	89½	1½	23½	33
(*994)	1000	8	39½	61½	14½	47	57
Tomkins	240	5	15	18	3	12½	16
(*243)	260	1	7½	13½	19	25	28
TSB	240	12	21½	27	1½	10½	14
(*250)	260	2	11½	17	12	22	24½
Wellcome	650	13½	52	66½	8½	36	53½
(*659)	700	1½	30	47	48½	66	93

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Dec	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Glaxo	700	16	55	78	8	48	61½
(*707½)	750	1½	32	57	40½	77	90
HSBC	850	22	63	77½	7	51	61
(*864½)	900	2½	39	55	40	90	99
Reuter	1750	24½	97½	138½	17	86½	109½
(*1757½)	1800	6	72½	115	50	114	134½

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Feb	Calls May	Puts Dec	Puts Feb	Puts May
R-Royce	156	17	21½	—	1	4½	—
(*171)	176	2	10	—	7	13½	—

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
Fisons	110	5	16½	24	3	12½	19½
(*112)	120	2½	12	19	10	19	25½

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
Eastrn Elc	650	49½	62½	72½	10½	18	29½
(*689½)	700	20	34½	44½	33½	40½	54

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
Natl Pwr	460	12	31	40½	3	16½	25½
(*469)	500	1	14	23½	30	29	47½
Scot Pwr	460	7	23	33	5½	20½	26
(*461½)	500	1	9	17	40½	47½	50½

December 17, 1993 Tot: 52895 Calls 29601 Puts 23294 FT-SE Calls 16254 Puts 12115
*Underlying security price.

COMMODITIES

COMMODITY REPORT: Coffee eased back in the afternoon session after early steadiness supported by fairly substantial purchases at Thursday night's Brazilian auction. Cocoa prices fell sharply closing slightly above the day's lows. Sugar remained very quiet with virtually no trade in raws. White sugar was lower with no lead coming from a subdued New York market.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	903-897	Mar	984-983
Mar	967-965	May	994-991
May	974-973	Jul	1003-995
Jul	975-973	Sep	1012-1007
Sep	978-977		
Dec	981-980	Volume:	23325

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1256-1255	Sep	1245-1242
Mar	1263-1262	Nov	1244-1234
May	1250-1248	Jan	1244-1234
Jul	1247-1243	Volume:	2317

NO.7 PREMIUM RAW SUGAR (6.00pm)

		Oct	11.02-11.17
Spot 272.90		Jan	unq
Mar	10.85-10.95	Mar	unq
May	11.08-11.19	May	unq
Jul	11.24-11.35	Volume:	15

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	278.0-77.5
Spot: 284.0		Dec	278.0-75.5
Mar	282.7-82.0	Mar	279.0-76.5
May	285.0-84.5	May	282.0-77.5
Aug	289.0-85.5	Volume:	553

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 17

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	76.56	93.57	118.78
(+/-)	+4.45	-0.03	-4.21
Eng/wales	76.56	93.79	118.55
(+/-)	+4.45	-0.02	-4.34
(%)	+5.2	+1.0	-38.9
Scotland	n/a	92.41	121.39
(+/-)	n/a	-0.03	-2.34
(%)	n/a	+13.8	-57.3

LONDON MEAT FUTURES
Live Pig (/kg)

	Open	Close		Open	Close
Aug	unq	-	Mar	unq	-
Sep	unq			Volume: 0	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)

Jan	97.15
Mar	99.30
May	100.60
Jun	101.30
Sep	89.20
Volume:	365

BARLEY (close £/t)

Jan	103.25
Mar	104.75
May	106.25
Sep	92.65
Nov	94.90
Volume:	61

HI-PRO SOYA (close £/t)

Aug	unq
Oct	
Dec	
Feb	
Apr	
Volume:	0

POTATO

(£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	140.0
Apr	99.0	100.9
May	115.9	118.5
Volume:		255

RUBBER
No 1 RSS Cif (p/k)
Jan 61.50-62.00

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm): As had happened on most days this week, oil prices slipped due to plentiful avails.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	13.55	-0.05
Brent 15 day (Jan)	13.50	-0.05
Brent 15 day (Feb)	13.65	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	14.15	-0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	14.65	-0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gas .15	144 (+1)	146 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	144 (-1)	145 (-1)
Non EEC 1H Jan	148 (-2)	150 (-1)
Non EEC 1H Feb	149 (-2)	151 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	54 (+1)	55 (n/c)
Naphtha	128 (+1)	130 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES
GNI Ltd

GAS OIL

Jan	142.75-43.00	Apr	144.50-44.75
Feb	unq	May	145.00 SLR
Mar	144.50-44.75	Jun	146.00 SLR
			Vol: 15912

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	13.66-13.67	May	14.36-14.40
Mar	13.89-13.92	Jun	14.60-14.65
Apr	14.12-14.17		Vol: 28985

UNLEADED GASOLINE

Jan	139.00-41.00	Apr	unq
Feb	140.00-43.75	May	161.25 SLR
Mar	unq		Vol: 125

BIFFEX
GNI Ltd ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 93	—	—	1231
Jan 94	1252	1250	1251
Feb 94	—	—	1275
Apr 94	1290	1290	1295

Vol: 61 lots. Open Int'st: 2464 Index 1228 -1

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
(Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1718.0-1719.0	1742.0-1742.5	2152525
Lead ($/tonne)	462.00-463.00	476.00-476.50	253200
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	960.00-961.00	979.50-980.50	403925
Tin ($/tonne)	4780.0-4785.0	4835.0-4837.0	22305
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1085.5-1086.0	1106.0-1106.5	1747425
Nickel ($/tonne)	5250.0-5253.0	5310.0-5315.0	73404

هكذا من الأصل

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c:						
Typical	0.38	0.38	0.30	1,000	7 day	——
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	3.66	3.58	2.85	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
"	3.38	3.38	2.70	5,000-50,000	3 mth	071-626 1567
Lloyds	3.00	3.00	2.40	10,000-no max	1 mth	Local Brnch
"	2.90	2.80	2.32	10,000-no max	6 mth	Local Brnch
Midland " "	3.81	3.61	2.89	10,000-100,000	1 mth	0742 528655
" " "	3.47	3.47	2.78	10,000-100,000	3 mth	0742 528655
NatWest " "	3.28	3.28	2.62	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-726 1000
" " "	3.00	3.00	2.40	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland MMC	2.88	2.93	2.34	2,500‡	none	031-442 77 7
Barclays Prime a/c	1.89	1.89	1.35	2,500‡	none	0804 252891
Co-operative Ultra	0.19	0.19	0.15	500‡	none	071 626 8543
Citibank	3.75	3.82	3.06	2,000‡	none	0800 555884
Lloyds HICA	0.56	0.56	0.45	1,000	none	0272 483372
Midland HICA	1.12	1.12	0.90	2,000‡	none	0742 528655
Abbey National HICA	1.19	1.19	0.93	1,000‡	none	Local Branch
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	1.50	1.51	1.21	2,000‡	none	031-556 8555
TSB Bank Intst Cheque Acct	1.50	1.50	1.20	2,000‡	none	071-600 8020
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	0.75	0.75	0.60	50+	none	——
Best buy — largest socs:						
Northern Rock	5.33	5.33	4.26	20,000 min	Postal	——
Birmingham Mid	5.36	5.36	4.29	100,000 min	Postal	——
Bristol & West	4.84	4.84	3.87	100,000 min	30 day	——
Woolwich	5.51	5.51	4.41	100,000 min	90 day	——
Alliance & Leics	5.63	5.63	4.50	100,000 min	1 year	——
Best buy — all socs:						
Northern Rock	5.14	5.14	4.11	10,000 min	Postal	——
North of England	5.44	5.44	4.35	25,000 min	30 day	——
The Nottingham	5.63	5.63	4.50	50,000 min	60 day	——
National Count.	5.70	5.70	4.56	50,000 min	90 day	——
Alliance & Leics	5.48	5.48	4.38	60,000 min	1 year	——
NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c†	3.75	2.81	2.25	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c*	6.25	4.69	3.75	20-24,999	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond*	7.00	5.25	4.20	2,000-24,999	3 mth	0253 796151
5th Index Linkd†‡	3.25	3.25	3.25	100-10,000	8 day	091-386-4900
40th Issue Cert*	5.75	5.75	5.75	100-10,000	8 day	091-386 4900
Yearly Plan†	5.75	5.75	5.75	20-400/mth	14 day	091-386 4900
Children's Bond	7.85	7.85	7.85	25-1,000		
Gen Ext Rate†	3.75	3.75	3.75			
Capital Bond*	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8 days	041-649-4555
1st Option Bond*	4.75	4.75	3.80	1,000-250,000		
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Consolidated Lf	4.30	4.30	3.66	2,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from
Prosperity Life	4.78	4.78	4.06	25,000 min	2 yrs	Chase de
Financial Ass	5.20	5.20	4.42	50,000 min	3 yrs	Vere
Financial Ass	5.65	5.65	4.80	50,000 min	4 yrs	071 404 5766
Liberty Life	6.40	6.40	5.44	50,000 min	5 yrs	for details

RATES		HOLIDAY RATES	£ buys
RPI (Nov 92-93)	+1.4%	Spanish Pesetas:	203.00
Bank Base Rate	5.5%	French Francs:	8.43
Personal Loan	25%	Greek Drachmas:	360.00
Credit Card	25 - 27%	Italian Lire:	2455.00

TESSA	CAR (%)	£3,000 val 1 year on	Transfer penalty	Minimum invstmt	Telephone number
Hinckley & Rgby	8.05	£3,241.50	90 days loss	£25	0455 251234
Dunfermline	7.90	£3,237.00	1mths notice+loss	£3,000	0383 721621
Dudley	7.87	£3,236.10	Revers share A/C	£10	0384 231414
Shepshed	7.80	£3,234.00	£25	£1	0509 503302
Progressive .	7.75	£3,232.50	£25+1 mths notice	£1	0232 244925

† 2.5% for balances below £500, first £70 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 of less * Additional holdings up to £20,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates ††Tax free ‡Interest bonds paid gross @ higher rates for larger sums ◊ Guaranteed over the rate of inflation ◊ 0.3% net bonus for amounts £20,000+

Compiled by LUCY DUPUIS

LENDERS

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Bradford & Bingley 0274 555555	4.99	neg.	85	Fixed for 2 years. Repossessed only
Nationwide 0793 513513	4.25	neg.	90	Fixed for 2 years. Repossessed only.
BANKS				
Midland 0742 528681	5.95	to £100K	90	Rate is fixed to 31.1.96
BANKS				
TSB 021 600 6140	5.64	neg.	75	Rate shown after 2% discount for 12 mths

Source: Bisy's MortgageMatch. Further info.Bisy's Guides 0753 880482

Public duped on Premium Bonds

From Joan Cowper

Sir, I noted with incredulity your article "The importance of being in Ernie" (December 4).

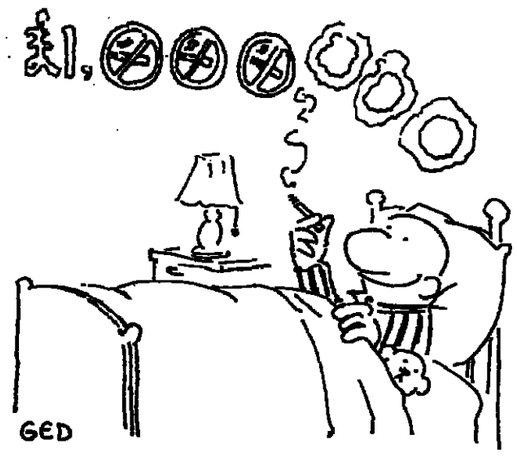
I have held Premium Bonds since April 1977 (commencing with the sum of £1,000) gradually increasing to the present sum of £5,000 (two years ago), having read an article in the press that one could expect a win five times yearly if one held £5,000.

If it is of any interest to your readers, I have just completed 13 months without a single win.

My experience, which is probably shared by many others, indicates there is no "importance of being in Ernie" and that the public is being duped.

The advertisement for Premium Bonds stating the number of wins a holder can expect during the course of a year is a fallacy.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN COWPER,
Fieldmoor,
Gorse Hill Road,
Virginia Water,
Surrey.



Hazards of smoking include unfair annuities

From Mr David Nursaw

Sir, Smokers are increasingly being penalised by higher life insurance premiums.

No doubt the insurance companies will say that there are sound medical/actuarial/statistical reasons for this.

If that is the case, then logic demands that if a smoker takes out life insurance in reverse — i.e., purchases an annuity, then that annuity should be much greater than one for a non-smoker of equal age.

Perhaps one of your readers could point me in the direction of a company moral enough to recognise this point.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID NURSAW,
11 Green Park,
91 Manor Road,
East Cliff
Bournemouth, Dorset.

Slow journey for tax refund

From Cdr Geoffrey Clarke RN Retd.

Sir, My wife's experience of the centralised income tax refund system (Weekend Money Letters, December 4) has not been encouraging either.

Her tax repayment claim for 1992-3 had a slow but bumpy journey from Bexhill to Belfast, with a short stop in Swansea en route. So, preparing early for 1993-4, she wrote to Belfast on November 19 asking to be sent an interim tax repayment application form. As we had heard nothing by December 2, I telephoned Belfast. The senior official to whom I spoke was not in the least surprised my wife had not received the form after a fortnight.

Everything was dealt with "in strict chronological order", I was informed.

"Even if it is just putting a blank form in the envelope?", I ventured. "Yes."

Surely, in systemising the delay, the Inland Revenue could use a little more commonsense and flexibility.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY CLARKE,
Hollingrove Barn,
Brightling,
Robertsbridge,
East Sussex.

Pension switch can be costly

From Mr Alan Jenkins

Sir, Bacon & Woodrow's advice (November 20) to clients that they should consider transferring a personal pension fund with a company that was not on their approved list is open to serious question. Unit-linked funds are volatile and history shows that most funds suffer a period of underperformance from time to time. Switching from a current poor performer which might be about to improve to a current high performer that could easily be about to decline may not have the hoped-for result.

The best advice for anyone already in a low-charge non-commission personal pension is to stay put. Transferring from one company to another normally triggers commission and/or fee costs, plus possible exit penalties from the current plan and entry charges to the new plan.

Clearly those who receive any charges associated with a transfer secure a guaranteed benefit. Unfortunately the benefits to the policyholder, who pays the charges, are not quite so clear cut.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN JENKINS,
6 Wisley Road, SW11.

Search for the truth about Land Registry

From Mr Russell Hewitson

Sir, In his article ("Bankrupt by any other name", November 20) Richard Milner is not correct in stating that house sales are more complex, more costly, and more chancy as a land charges search will be carried out against a seller by the prospective buyer's solicitor every time a property is sold.

It is only where the title to a property has not yet been registered at the Land Registry that such a search needs to be carried out.

The Land Registry has estimated that about 14 million property titles have been registered out of an estimated 22 million. Every time an unregistered property is sold its title must be registered at the Land Registry. Thus as more property is now registered than is not, it is the case that a land charges search against the seller will not normally need to be carried out.

In any event a land charges search costs only £1 per name and should only take a couple of days to be carried out. In cases of urgency a search can always be made by telephoning the land charges registry and this costs only an additional £1.

Yours faithfully,
RUSSELL HEWITSON,
Solicitor and senior lecturer in conveyancing,
University of Northumbria at Newcastle,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Distinct lack of seasonal cheer

From Mr Ronald Riggs

Sir, It was cold comfort to receive this seasonal greeting with my monthly cheque for interest on my income bonds.

As a pensioner, aged 81, and totally dependent on this supplement to my state retirement pension, I feel that some warmhearted person may have wished to sweeten the pill. But it is hard to swallow, with one's income more than halved in the last two years.



Yours despondently,
RONALD RIGGS,
Inez Cottage,
Wheathampstead,
Hertfordshire.

Guarantee cards should be checked

From Dr. P. Glaister

Sir, I would like to warn all holders of cheque guarantee cards about expiry dates of the same.

Presumably to reduce the amount of money lost through fraud, my bank now sends out new cheque guarantee cards close to the date of expiry of the old one. In my case, the letter accompanying my new card was dated and sent on the last day that my old card was valid so that, unless I leave for work after my mail is delivered (an absolute impossibility), I am without the use of my cheque account for that day.

This could lead to a potentially embarrassing situation. Readers caught out in this way should lobby their banks to make a small adjustment to their current arrangements.

Yours faithfully,
P. GLAISTER,
3 Instow Road,
Earley, Reading.

Letters to the Business and Finance section can be faxed to 071-782 5112.

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SAINTS PEP RATES

2

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Grofund Equity	248.00	262.50	+ 4.60	1.59
Grofund Euro	195.50	205.80	+ 0.30	....
Grofund Expt Bal	118.10	122.40	....	1.22
Grofund Gilt	82.76	85.32	+ 0.52	4.41
Grofund Japan	164.40	173.10r	+ 5.90	....

ARA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
Equity & Law Hse, Corps St, Coventry
0203 555 231

General Acc	537.20	571.50	+12.50	2.14
General Inc	494.00	514.90	+11.40	2.14
UK Growth Acc	365.80	389.20	+ 8.40	2.31
UK Growth Inc	336.10	357.50	+ 5.90	2.31
Higher Inc Acc	690.10	734.20	+18.50	3.23
Higher Inc Inc	412.20	439.10	+11.10	3.23
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	196.20	207.20	+ 1.00	5.49
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	100.30	105.90	+ 0.50	5.49
Nth America	290.70	279.30	- 4.70	....
Far East	350.30	372.70	+ 9.50	....
Europe	264.10	281.00	- 1.30	0.69
Brit Excell	73.69	78.40r	+ 2.09	2.39
Brit Fndmtls Acc	109.60	111.30	+ 2.90	4.01
Brit Fndmtls Inc	79.34	84.41	+ 1.84	4.01
Global Opps	84.39	89.68r	+ 0.78	....
Balanced Acc	55.36	58.90r	+ 1.21	2.17
Balanced Inc	54.86	58.37r	+ 1.19	2.17

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
80 Haldenhurst Rd, Bournemouth 0345 717 573

High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	141.20	149.70r	+ 1.50	5.34
High Inc Equity	170.80	181.60	+ 4.30	4.33
Worldwide Bond	273.70	280.20r	+ 0.90	3.62
Capital Growth				
American Growth	301.10	322.00	- 0.30	.98
Asian Pacific	386.10	410.70	+19.60	.25
Assets & Earnings	262.30	279.00r	+ 8.80	1.95
Comdty & Energy	116.10	124.10	- 0.20	.44
1992 Enterprise	91.64	98.01	+ 0.69	1.96
Euro Capital Inc	122.30	131.80	+ 0.20	.74
General	253.20	268.80	+ 2.30	2.19
Japan	116.40	124.40	+ 3.90	....
Mastertrust	139.50	149.10	+ 3.30	1.25
UK Growth Dist	129.10	137.30	+ 2.80	2.08
US Emerging Cos	129.20	137.40	+ 1.00	....
Income & Growth	296.30	316.80r	+ 5.70	3.11
Ethical	72.33	76.94	+ 1.82	2.37
International	112.30	119.40	+ 2.60	.42

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
14 Melville St, Edinburgh EH3 7NS
031 220 0733

UK Small Cos	1582.0	1653.0	+ 8.00	....

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
10 Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ
0800 835 588

Aberdeen Portfolio	65.03	64.32	+ 1.34	0.78
Amer Inc & Growth	44.76	47.38	- 0.16	0.66
Cash	50.09	50.09r	+ 0.03	4.91
European	99.43	105.40	+ 0.10	....
European Income	99.47	101.50r	- 0.93	1.48
Exempt	1022.4	1075.1	+20.90	1.55
Extra Income	53.39	56.18r	+ 0.87	4.53
Far East Emg Ecn	119.80	128.90	+ 2.30	0.50
Fixed Interest	24.50	26.15r	+ 0.25	7.06
Fund Inv Tst	171.40	183.20	+ 4.90	0.92
Japan	187.40	199.70	+ 5.30	....
Latin American	67.60	71.91	+ 1.04	0.70
Pacific	76.00	81.46	+ 1.71	0.33
Property Share	73.08	78.02	+ 0.87	1.69
UK Emerging Cos	92.64	98.86	+ 0.59	1.69
UK Growth	46.01	49.51	+ 1.10	2.38
World Growth	76.08	81.21r	+ 1.53	0.68

ACUMA FUND MANAGERS LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Essex 0277 690 336

UK Equity Income	94.95	101.01	+ 1.55	7.32
UK Equity Growth	83.15	88.46	+ 1.40	2.67
European	65.26	69.43	+ 0.08	1.41
Nth American	66.69	70.95r	+ 0.94	0.47
Far Eastern	68.38	72.74r	+ 1.94	0.27
Money	64.99	64.99	+ 0.05	4.37

AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF
031 549 3232

British Growth	69.17	73.59	+ 1.58	2.43
British Income	79.31	84.37	+ 1.16	3.18
Select Portfolio	83.61	89.16	+ 0.90	....

Formerly AEtna

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
104 Kings Road Brentwood CM14 4DR
0402 305 958

Amity Income	77.57	82.30	+ 1.27	1.99
Income Builder Inc	69.57	74.01r	+ 1.47	2.76

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL
IFA dlg: 0793 640 366 Client dlg: 0793 514 514

Balanced Income	250.20	267.40	+ 5.40	2.82
Capital	421.40	450.60	+ 8.60	1.75
Balanced	703.70	752.20r	+15.20	2.28
Accumulator	1286.0	1374.0	+31.00	2.80
Income Trusts				
American Income	90.03	53.48	- 0.10	3.09
High Income	440.20	471.10	+ 9.00	3.35
Equity Income	348.60	265.70	+ 4.60	3.25
High Yield	271.10	289.70r	+ 5.60	3.24
Gow Securities	36.12	38.12	+ 0.38	4.70
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	134.00	143.20	- 2.80	0.17
European Growth	32.38	34.40	- 0.11	0.44
International	156.60	167.20	+ 3.00	0.35
Japan	141.90	204.80r	+ 5.90	0.01
Pacific	422.80	451.90r	+ 4.70	0.12
Secs of America	423.90	450.50t	- 4.70	0.54
Worlde Asset Val	46.24	49.41	+ 0.81	0.16
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	551.70	589.70t	+13.50	2.10
Cover & Gilt	49.56	52.97	+ 0.85	5.79
Smaller Cos	169.10	180.70	+ 2.80	1.20
2nd Smaller Cos	160.30	171.30	+ 2.60	1.19
Recovery	140.80	150.50	+ 3.20	1.93
Mid Min & Oday	152.60	163.10	+ 4.80	0.77
Ocean Earnings	353.00	377.30r	+ 6.70	2.14

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Manor Royal, Crawley RH10 2QP 0293 526 911

Current Out Pens	101.60	105.50	+ 2.90	1.45
Reunditn Pensl Pens	65.88	68.36	+ 2.39	4.00

BSL-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
28 St John's Sq, London EC1M 4AE
071 251 6767

Capital	75.27	80.07	+ 1.37	1.94
International	61.73	65.67	+ 1.05	0.51

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
1 Rutland Court, Edinburgh EH3 8EY
031 222 4242

America	298.90	322.10r	- 4.10	....
Bond	130.80	137.60	+ 1.40	5.73
Brit Smlr Cos	95.50	101.60	+ 1.30	1.00
Conv & Gen	62.72	66.94	+ 1.06	5.22
Energy	434.90	461.80r	+ 4.30	0.26
Europe	316.00	338.80r	+ 0.40	0.65
Euro Smlr Cos	94.78	100.50	- 0.20	0.97
Income Growth	348.90	372.40r	+ 8.60	4.13
Japan	311.90	331.70r	+ 8.10	....
Pacific	120.80	128.50r	+ 1.90	0.63
UK Smlr Cos	48.20	51.28	+ 0.58	0.94

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
36 Queen St, London EC4R 1BN 071 489 1873

Brit & Overs	195.10	210.60	+ 1.14	....
Capital Gwth	119.30	128.60	+ 3.00	2.15
Worlde Opps	197.00	207.40	....	0.46

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
11 Broadway, Stratford E15 4BJ 081 534 5544
Balanced Trusts

Bst Inv Pd Inc	359.60	374.00	+ 8.10	2.46
Extension Bd Inc	101.10	104.70	+ 0.10	7.14
Exempt	79.15	84.41	+ 1.54	3.84
Financial	76.51	81.83t	+ 0.95	2.34
500.00	449.00	478.90	+ 9.10	2.49
General	282.20	302.30	+ 7.60	2.45
Property	244.70	261.70t	+ 1.70	3.66
Trustee	190.50	203.80r	+ 1.20	2.28
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.90	100.90	+ 0.10	4.61
Extra Income	121.40	129.80	+ 2.00	6.04
Gilt & Fxd Int	63.66	65.79r	+ 0.38	7.67
Income	557.30	596.10	+10.70	3.57
Income Builder	68.70	73.08	+ 1.33	4.54
Ind Income	68.14	72.49r	+ 0.73	2.86
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	122.50	130.70	+ 2.50	2.51
Leisure	117.60	125.70	+ 2.70	1.54
Recovery	417.50	446.50	+ 9.70	2.56
Smlr Cos Inc	39.94	42.88	+ 0.33	2.21
Special Sits	271.80	297.10	+ 5.30	1.93
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	131.90	139.90r	- 0.30	0.23
Asian Acc	237.20	252.40	+ 1.30	1.44
Aust Inc	148.50	158.00t	+ 0.60	1.44
Euro Gwth Inc	136.40	144.70	+ 0.80	0.44
Japan & Gen Inc	172.10	182.20	+ 5.40	....
Japan Spec Sits	75.19	79.65	+ 2.25	....

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 158, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ
081 658 6000

American Growth	98.63	104.60	- 0.50	0.10
Amer Smlr Cos	131.60	141.10	- 0.10	....
Cash Trust	50.27	50.27r	+ 0.03	4.60
Convertibles	58.58	62.65r	+ 0.10	5.60
Eastern	300.90	324.30	+14.50	1.60
Equity Income	94.47	100.50	+ 1.28	5.00
European Growth	280.80	298.20	+ 1.00	1.50
Europe	192.20	205.20r	+ 0.30	1.50
German Growth	74.78	79.57	+ 0.51	0.70
Global Bond	71.24	75.12	+ 0.08	5.30
Global Growth	127.60	136.40r	+ 1.20	....
Japan Growth	200.60	213.40r	+ 2.20	....
Japan Smaller	171.30	183.50	+ 8.60	....
Korea Trust	66.39	71.06	+ 1.27	....
Portfolio	136.00	145.50	+ 2.20	3.20
UK Growth	92.59	98.49	+ 0.88	2.80

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
20-24 Old Street, London EC1V 9HL
071 250 3000

Intl Gwth Port Inc	76.32	81.10	+ 0.18	....
Special Oppor Inc	91.05	94.31	+ 1.15	....

BREWIN DOLPHIN UT MGRS LTD
5 Giltspur St, London EC1A 9DE 071 236 6441

Special Sits	192.00	184.00	- 2.00	0.61
Dividend	85.61	91.39	+ 2.18	4.17
Int Gth & Inc	230.60	246.00	+ 0.70	2.66
UK & Gen	46.40	49.61	+ 0.33	1.30
Fund of Funds	65.73	70.30	+ 0.50	....

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
50 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 6HR
041 223 6020

Balanced Growth	109.54	117.16	+ 2.99	1.55
Senior Cos	96.34	103.08r	+ 2.67	1.03
Higher Yield	65.80	69.02	+ 0.10	3.01
American Gth Inc	68.39	73.15	+ 0.99	....
European Growth	121.56	130.02	+ 0.15	0.17
Global Bond Inc	31.52	33.44r	+ 0.36	4.86
Mngd Pfolio Inc	42.11	45.04	+ 0.70	1.06

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
311 Fenchurch St, London EC3M 5AL
071 480 7256

Short Dated Gilt	70.34	71.30	+ 0.01	4.89

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 105, Manchester M60 0AH
061 837 5060

Dyvinvt	148.40	157.90t	+ 2.30	1.39
UK Growth	169.80	180.70	+ 5.30	1.77
UK Income	141.30	150.40	+ 3.30	3.67

CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD
High St, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA
0707 651 122

Can Gen Dist	192.90	204.50	+ 4.40	1.77
Can Income Dist	115.60	122.80	+ 1.80	4.36
Gilt & Fxd Int	45.97	48.73	+ 0.46	5.58

For Canlife see Lincoln National

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
35 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AF
061 236 5685 Emg: 061 236 5685 Dlg: 061 236 5362

American & Gen	146.00	153.40	- 0.60	....
European Inc	76.12	80.68	+ 0.04	0.74
Far East & Gen	65.92	70.13	+ 2.45	....
Smaller Cos (4-1)	76.17	81.04	+ 0.71	1.57
Growth	420.80	459.70	- 5.40	3.11
Income & Growth	435.00	462.80	+ 8.50	3.33

CAPITAL HOUSE UNIT TST MGRS
Capital House, Festival Square, Edinburgh
031 228 4477 Dealing: 0800 833 561

American Gwth Tst	37.30	39.99	- 0.06	0.92
Cash Income	50.17	50.17r	+ 0.04	5.02
European Gwth	38.36	40.91	+ 0.10	0.85
Income & Gwth Inc	28.18	31.20	+ 0.77	3.97
Intnl Gwth	31.35	33.52	+ 0.49	0.77
Japan Gwth	25.86	27.68	+ 0.83	....
Managed Tst Inc	50.25	53.74	+ 0.58	0.49
Oriental Opps Inc	165.80	177.30	+ 3.70	0.55
Property Shares	43.55	46.57r	+ 0.60	1.75
Smaller Cos	29.54	31.59	+ 0.41	1.68
UK Growth Tst	26.38	28.21	+ 0.39	2.67
Formerly Brown Shipley				
European Inc	25.46	27.22	....	0.39
European Acc	26.40	28.23	....	0.39
Financial	149.80	160.20	+ 0.20	2.54
Foundation	88.37	94.51	+ 1.39	2.69
German	50.96	54.50t	- 0.07	0.07
High Income	80.65	86.25r	+ 2.04	5.92
Income	137.30	146.80	+ 2.40	3.75
Intl Growth	38.16	40.81	+ 0.74	0.18
Magd Pfolio Inc	104.50	111.70	+ 0.80	1.66
Magd Pfolio Acc	198.80	212.60	+ 1.60	1.66
Monthly Income	91.18	86.83t	+ 0.67	3.71
North American	109.40	117.00t	+ 0.50	0.16
Orient	146.30	156.40	+ 4.70	....

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
3 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7BH
071 606 0708

Cazenove Portfolio	83.06	88.84	+ 1.46	2.21
American Portfolio	89.94	95.96r	+ 0.06	1.02
European Portfolio	88.43	94.40	+ 0.49	1.03
Japanese Portfolio	63.63	67.77	+ 2.09	....
Pacific Portfolio	145.31	156.25r	+ 5.28	0.71
UK Inc & Growth	75.12	80.59	+ 1.66	3.75
Utility & Bond	60.89	61.63	+ 1.99	5.91

CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD
5 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7BA 071 332 5000

UK General Tst	68.67	73.05	+ 1.34	2.74
Global Tst	61.99	65.94	+ 1.04	0.29
Recovery Tst	70.80	75.31	+ 2.13	1.75

CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD
151 Farringdon Rd, London EC1R 3AD
071 837 7667

Intl Growth	138.83	148.90r	+ 8.44	....
UK Growth	105.31	114.35	+ 2.69	1.12
UK Income	108.20	117.35r	+ 0.27	4.15

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966

Beckmann Ind	92.04	97.27	+ 0.21	1.72
Back Bio-Tech	40.22	42.79r	- 1.48	....
Acorn Ethical Tst	158.38	164.61r	+ 2.31	1.13
City Fin Assets	70.20	73.89r	+ 0.81	1.66
City Fin America	80.39	84.85	+ 0.88	....
City Fin Intl	74.51	78.43r	+ 0.78	0.50
City Fin Japan	156.34	164.57	+ 3.81	....
Friars Hse Cap	268.18	282.29	+ 1.81	2.30
Friars Hse Inc	206.36	218.37r	+ 2.55	4.90
Emerging World Gth	135.40	144.04	+ 2.92	0.69
Fairmac Cap Gth	140.10	147.47r	+ 2.31	....
-do- Inc & Gth	116.73	122.87r	+ 0.81	1.61

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
10 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1AJ 0392 412 144
Emerging Markets 36.93 40.41 + 3.10 ....

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0800 373 393

American Gwth	56.61	61.03	- 0.32	....
Atlas Mngd Gwth	37.17	39.97	+ 0.39	0.14
Dragon Growth	78.81	84.29	+ 1.82	0.33
Equity High Inc	86.51	91.79r	+ 1.43	3.44
European Gwth	47.79	50.71	+ 0.05	0.50
Evergreen	29.76	31.83	+ 0.72	....
General Equity	85.98	91.23	+ 2.03	2.10
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	28.30	29.74	+ 0.29	7.81
Japan Growth	44.90	48.46	+ 0.70	....
Pedigree Gwth	50.93	54.04	+ 1.19	2.01
Fed Sm Cos Inc	30.77	32.65	+ 0.38	0.86
Retirement Inc	27.28	29.33	+ 0.42	5.14

COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD
Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY
0634 898 000

Capital	66.55	71.18	+ 1.20	2.70
Income	64.05	68.50	+ 1.29	3.64

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL LTD
Hyperion Court, 3 Bedford Park, Croydon, CR0 2AQ 081 686 9855
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

Income Funds				
Equity Inc	169.17	179.97	+ 2.12	4.91
Fixed & Convertible	47.63	50.67	+ 0.84	5.60
Monthly Inc Plus	53.84	57.28	+ 0.65	7.82
Preference Share	32.39	55.73	+ 0.39	8.29
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	138.07	146.88	+ 4.34	5.59
Managed Fund	69.50	73.94	+ 0.90	2.73
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	30.82	42.36	+ 0.60	1.94
UK & General	79.84	84.94	+ 1.71	2.55
UK Growth	137.09	146.80	+ 2.75	1.61
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	177.02	188.32	- 0.57	....
Far Eastern Gth	141.72	150.77	+ 4.68	0.28
Global Bond	87.93	93.64	+ 0.03	5.72
Japan Growth	112.76	119.96	+ 3.24	....
North Amer Gth	161.77	172.10	+ 0.39	....
Oriental Growth	88.66	94.32	+ 2.94	....
Worldwide Growth	62.92	66.94	+ 0.43	0.25

CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN
0438 744 840

Growth Inc	59.58	63.38	+ 1.51	2.80
High Income	35.15	37.39	+ 0.65	4.30
Japan	33.42	35.55	+ 1.54	....
Smaller Cos Inc	29.42	31.29r	+ 0.91	2.40
Smaller Cos	30.61	32.56r	+ 0.62	2.40
North American	32.06	34.10	+ 0.16	0.50
European	35.17	37.41	+ 0.74	0.60

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
1 White Hart Yd, London Bridge SE1 1NX
071 407 5966

Consistent UT	31.78	34.07	+ 0.37	4.34

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
1 King St, Manchester M60 3AH 0800 526 358

Growth	135.80	144.50r	+ 1.70	2.02
Income	77.19	82.12	+ 1.44	4.17
European	57.18	60.84r	+ 0.13	0.90
Recovery	133.10	141.60	+ 4.30	1.82

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
78-80 Cornhill, London EC3V 3NJ 071 283 9494

Equity Dist	838.20	842.20r	+23.90	3.60

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
0277 690 370

Fellowship Tst	71.23	75.78	+ 1.67	1.64
Income	245.30	261.00	+ 5.00	3.25
Smaller Cos	138.10	147.00	+ 1.80	0.89
Inv Portfolio	78.49	83.50	+ 1.81	1.82
High Income Port	70.32	74.81	+ 1.53	3.43

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3XS
071 430 0177

Extra Small Cos	1600.3	1629.9r	+29.10	....
Japan Small Cos	10980.2	11120r	+83.10	....
UK Small Cos	1642.2	1713.8	+10.30	....
US Small Cos	1583.7	1627.5r	+11.60	....

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
66 Wilton Street, London EC2A 2BL
071 377 8819

Disc Inc	182.60	192.30r	....	2.06

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
25, Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh 031 315 2900

European Gwth	240.60	254.30	- 1.00	1.18
New Asia	228.90	240.30	+ 9.80	0.32
Japan Growth	117.10	124.20	+ 3.10	....
Jap Smlr Co	473.00	500.00	+11.00	....
Nth Amer	242.60	256.90	+ 0.90	0.95
Shlttrd Asia Pac Ml	128.50	136.10	+ 6.40	0.46
UK Inc & Gth	224.70	239.60	+ 5.30	3.38

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ 0242 577 555

UK Balanced Inc	142.10	151.20r	+ 3.60	2.28
UK High Inc Inc	156.40	166.40r	+ 3.30	5.32
UK Fxd & P I Inc	94.10	98.58r	+ 0.84	6.42
Envtrnmntl Opps	81.04	86.21	+ 1.64	1.43

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
37 Hanover Street, Edinburgh
0345 698 526

American	118.80	126.20r	+ 0.30	0.40
Convertibles	23.74	25.22	+ 0.45	7.73
Equity Income	128.30	147.40r	+ 2.90	4.35
EuroPanel	44.56r	47.17	+ 0.86	0.85
Financial	50.51	53.67	+ 0.61	2.26
Growth & Inc	245.30	260.60	+ 6.30	2.88
High Yield	163.50	173.90r	+ 2.60	4.31
International	378.30	401.90r	+ 5.30	0.81
Intl Income	98.00	104.60	+ 1.90	2.49
Latin American	43.37	46.08	+ 0.55	0.27
Pacific	69.34	93.61	+ 2.30	0.32
Tokyo	199.40	211.70	+ 4.10	....
UK Smaller Cos	229.50	241.70	+ 5.70	0.97

ELCON LTD
Central Ct, Knoll Rise, Orpington BR6 0JA
0689 70556

Elcon Trust	215.90	230.60	+10.90	....

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
6 Hampstead Gardens, London NW11 6JD
071 375 7266

Endurance Fd	199.90	212.70	+ 2.40	0.44

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7QN
0296 434 488

European	74.81	78.75	- 0.44	1.66
Far Eastern	348.37	335.13	- 7.39	1.37
High Income	137.39	144.62r	+ 3.18	4.27
Intl Growth	117.30	123.47	+ 2.31	1.09
North American	115.11	121.17	+ 0.33	0.93
Pelican	121.80	128.21	+ 3.07	2.82
Smaller Cos	71.02	74.76r	+ 0.24	2.01
Special Sits	89.21	93.91	+ 1.91	1.91
Tst of Inv Trsts	183.35	193.00	+ 5.20	1.94

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966

Smaller Cos Inc	197.68	205.91	+ 9.35	1.78
Smaller Cos Acc	342.20	356.49	+16.20	1.78
Recovery	48.30	50.31t	+ 2.36	2.26

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
23 Cathedral Yard, Exeter EX1 1HB
0392 412 144

Balanced	121.18	128.70r	+ 1.30	4.86
Capital Growth	81.67	87.59	+ 2.44	....
Fd of Inv Trsts	45.09	48.10	+ 1.00	0.29
High Income	49.91	53.24	+ 0.47	8.32
Warrant	61.11	66.43	+ 2.13	....
Zero Preference	37.88	39.95t	+ 0.25	....

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
16 West Street, Brighton BN1 2RE 0273 220 707

Family Asset Tst	73.41	78.09	+ 0.48	2.60
Family Income Tst	51.08	54.33	+ 0.34	6.00
Family Trust	79.68	84.76	+ 1.12	1.70
United Charities	248.60	264.40	+10.90	3.50

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ
Callers on Private Clients 0800 414 161
Broker Dealings: 0800 414 181

Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	....	5.00
Stabiliser Growth Range				
Controlled Risk UK	25.21	26.55	+ 0.02	3.11
-do- Income	24.79	26.12	+ 0.03	4.89
-do- America	23.78	25.06	+ 0.10	0.52
-do- Asia Japan	27.93	29.43	+ 0.23	0.76
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	32.00	32.29r	+ 0.26	6.18
Intl Bond	32.69	34.14	+ 0.01	4.89
Income Funds				
High Income	28.14	29.61r	+ 0.09	4.83
Income Plus	122.10	128.90r	....	3.52
Amer Gr Inc	47.65	50.52	+ 0.19	1.00
European Income	42.48	45.17	+ 0.46	2.56
Far East Inc	65.59	70.21r	+ 0.06	2.34
Global Convertible	24.23	25.85r	+ 0.32	2.25
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	70.64	75.35	+ 2.54	....
American	228.60	242.30	- 0.90	....
Amer Spec Sits	107.50	114.70	- 0.40	....
Emrg Smaller Cos	97.56	91.07	- 1.02	....

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Admin: PO Box 2000, Brentwood, Essex
CM13 1XR Enq: 071 454 1454 Dlg: 0277 291 810

Hypo Foreign & Colonial				
European	108.80	115.10	- 0.30	0.34
Far Eastern	167.20	178.90	+ 7.30	....
High Income	22.91	28.43r	+ 0.14	10.00
Income Trust	94.20	100.00r	+ 0.20	4.00
Japan Spec Sits	82.73	88.28	+ 2.57	....
Japan	176.40	188.60	+ 7.20	....
Managed Intl	256.10	273.40	+ 2.00	....
Moneybuilder	49.86	53.19	+ 0.08	....
Recovery	40.75	43.33	+ 0.47	....
South E Asia	170.10	181.50	+ 4.20	....
Special Sits	482.50	515.10	+ 8.80	....
Specialist Funds				
UK Index	114.10	120.10	+ 2.00	3.09
UK Reverse Index	92.01	96.10	- 1.94	4.94
Europe Index	116.01	122.20	- 0.10	4.58
-do- Reverse Index	69.20	73.51	- 0.20	7.90
America

Shares close below best

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 13. Dealings end December 31. §Contango day January 4. Settlement day January 10. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
487	345	Abbey Nat	479	+9	11.8	3.1	18.5
290	179	Allied Irish	286	+3	..	3.6	14.6
226½	130	Anz New Z	218	+4	....	4.0	∞
3600½	2712½	Bankamerica	3125 †	+69½	....	....	....
295	177	Bk of Ireland	280	+2	....	4.5	20.7
380	325	Bk Ireland Utd	350	....	17.0	6.1	....
240½	116½	Bank Scotland	235	+2	4.6	2.5	31.9
646	362	Barclays	615	+5	....	2.5	....
4½	2	Benchmark	4½	....	....	....	5.9
28	15½	Carlisle	26	-½	....	....	....
598	395	Charr Allen	594 †	+3	28.0	5.9	....
167	85	Cattles	165	+8	....	3.6	22.0
2487½	1787½	Chase Manh	2362½	....	....	....	....
2020	1343½	Citicorp	1970½	+37½	....	....	....
480	250	Close Bros	480	+5	....	2.8	17.8
1155	9225	Commerzbk	1150½	+100	....	2.7	....
1346	1250½	Deutsche Bk	1337½	+159½	....	1.8	....
95	65	First Nat Fin	80	+3½	....	1.0	....
1651	676	Full Bank Y	1401	....	....	0.4	....
529	343	Gerrard Nat	453	+1	21.5	5.9	12.0
870	498	HSBC	865	+13	20.0	2.9	20.7
873	474	HSBC Hk	873	+9	20.0	2.9	20.9
403	243	Hambros	391	+5	14.3	4.7	17.6
428	313	Joseph (L)	418 †	....	16.7	5.0	....
155	96	King Shaxson	130 †	-1	9.0	8.7	....
558	312	Kleinwort Ben	555	+9	16.7	3.6	19.2
655	492	Lloyds	645	+15	19.1	3.7	18.4
118	63	Lon Scot Bk	95	....	2.9	3.8	18.8
575	322	Nat Aust Bk	560	-8	....	....	....
620	398	Nat West	598	+9	17.8	3.8	25.8
468	270	Provident	452	+4	12.4	3.4	19.0
60	39	Rea Bros	60	+2	0.5	1.1	63.8
462	207	Rl Bk Scot	449 †	+9	....	3.1	24.0
1340	467½	Schroders	1338	+8	....	1.1	26.7
1259	579	Stand Chart	1190	+8	20.5	2.2	....
251	145½	TSB	230	+10	6.4	3.2	....
190	78	Union Disc	165	+1	....	....	....
940	529	Warburg SG	898	+15	....	2.7	13.1
8650	4845	Wells Fargo	8362½	+109½	....	2.4	....
211	121	Westpac	210	-1	....	2.4	....
325	186	Wintrust	315	....	9.3	3.7	28.2

BREWERIES

646	517	Allied-Lyons	643 †	+8	....	4.2	17.8
647	441	Bass	566 †	+1	7.8	4.4	15.3
299	189	Boddingtons	285	+1	7.5	3.2	16.4
639	362	Bulmer (HP)	415 †	....	4.7	3.3	15.0
186	130	Burtonwd Brw	179	....	....	3.1	∞
145	75	Eldridge P 'A'	144	....	....	2.1	13.7
450	50	Fosters Brewing	61½	....	....	0.8	24.7
435	338	Fuller Sm 'A'	420	+3	7.5	2.1	17.0
350	240	Grand Met	350	+8	....	3.5	17.2
447	347	Greenalls Grp	445	+5	....	3.5	15.1
575	505	Greene King	554	+6	....	2.8	15.4
331	288	Guinness	331	+1	....	2.4	18.2
201	170	Hardy Hanson	199	+5	6.5	4.6	....
138	105	Hewthwrse	135	....	3.0	2.8	23.2
357	255	Highland Dist	354	-2	....	2.3	17.6
3138	2536	Holt J	3125	....	42.0	1.7	20.6
97	73	Hoskins Brew	78 #	....	....	4.0	15.2
325	250	Invergordn Dist	301	....	....	0.8	4.1
186	118	Macallan-Glen	134	+1	4.3	4.1	30.1
465	375	Macdn Martn 'A'	395	....	....	2.8	18.7
225	194	Mansfield	219 †	+17	....	2.3	15.7
281	231	Mcsmnt Thmp	281	....	....	2.5	15.7
584	289½	Matthew Clark	563	+6	....	4.0	18.8
300	210	Mcrydwn W	230 †	....	7.0	3.0	16.4
580	435	Morland	515	+5	....	2.8	17.6
12	6½	Paramount-A	8	....	....	2.1	∞
207	146	Regent Inns	207	....	....	2.7	21.0
1253	753	SA Breweries	1251 †	-2	....	2.1	21.2
554	393	Scot & Nwe	541	-1	....	4.0	16.4
1750	1575	Stanton Cider	1700 †	+1	8.2	4.6	13.3
283	213	Vaux Group	281	....	9.5	4.3	∞
357	225	Wethrspoon JD	325	+1	....	2.1	25.2
589	435	Whitbread 'A'	581	-3	....	1.8	13.5
613	463	Wolvrhmptn D	539 †	+8	12.6	3.0	....
515	478	Young 'A'	485	....	14.7	3.8	20.1

BUILDING, ROADS

155	73	Abbey	155	+15	....	1.6	25.5
29½	12	Alfreghtown▲	19	....	....	4.3	15.1
149	87	Allens	148 †	+2	3.0	3.1	22.4
12	4	Anglia Sec	7½	....	....	....	....
352	190	Ashtead▲	329	....	....	1.1	34.8
143	101	Ashwoods	122	-1	....	5.1	14.6
340	180	BPB Ind	336	+3	....	2.8	40.2
95	57	Baggeridge Brk	94	....	3.1	4.3	∞
31	18	Bailey (Ben) Con	28	....	0.6	2.9	....
108	74	Barrow	85	....	2.0	4.5	∞
32½	22½	Bardon	29	....	2.0	6.0	20.7
220	94	Barratt Devs	219	-1	4.0	2.3	∞
480	305	Bellway	480	+9	12.0	3.1	∞
43	15	Bellwinch	43	+2	....	....	....
510	395½	Berkeley Gp	510	+3	....	1.5	27.6
116	45	Ben Bnns	108	+1	....	2.3	14.1
67	36	Blockleys	59½	+2½	1.0	2.3	61.3
355	189	Blue Circle	343	-2	....	4.1	....
285	230	Boot (Henry)	275	....	6.0	2.7	15.3
108	78	Bovis Hmc Plc	93	....	4.6	6.2	22.9
131	82	Br Dredging	130	....	5.2	5.0	28.9
86	45	Brit Fittings	80	....	1.7	2.7	....
163	90	Bryant	161	+1	....	3.7	22.5
153	53	CALA	122	....	....	2.4	....
354	200	CRH	352	+6	....	2.4	19.3
43	18	Calednvan Brp	31	+1	....	....	....
41½	21	Costain	29½	....	....	....	....
152	86½	Countrywide	137	+2	....	3.4	∞
58	38	Crest Nicholson	57	....	0.0	....	....
112	27	Cussins	103	....	....	1.2	....
7½	1½	Dunton▲	5½	....	....	....	....
25	15	Edmond Hdgs	19	....	0.3	2.0	....
285	178	Ferguson	273	....	7.0	3.2	23.1
58	39	Firth	55	....	0.3	0.8	....
306	252	Eve Groupe▲	438	....	....	3.0	16.5
6½	3	Explosive▲	4	....	....	....	....
140	97	Freeman Gp▲	134	+1	....	1.7	21.3
30	18	Galliford	30	+1	....	3.3	....
84	32	Gibbs & Dandy	84	+3	....	3.0	....
923	695	Gleeson (M)	910	+7	....	1.8	15.9
164	90	Hewden-Stuart	161	+3	....	2.5	28.7
51	28	Hiveseon	46	....	....	3.4	13.6
430	186	Heywd Wmn	430	+16	13.0	4.1	....
119	37	Higgs & Hill	118	+5	2.5	2.6	....
38	26	How Gp	28	....	....	3.0	....
21	15	Howard Mchn	20	....	0.5	3.1	....
78	39	Hunnck Johnsn	78	+4	1.0	1.6	....
196	12½	Jarvis	14½	....	....	....	....
516	196	Laing (J)	302	+1	9.0	3.7	12.1
127½	103	-do- 6.4% Cv Pf	120½	....	....	6.6	....
130	55	Ln Clydesdale	110	....	....	4.5	5.1
23	10½	Lovell (V)	15½	....	....	....	....
350	240	Marston	350	....	9.3	3.3	21.4
187	93	Marley	185	+1	4.2	2.8	54.3
130	61	Marshalls	130	+1	....	3.9	....
190	122	Maunders (J)	189	+1	....	3.4	18.2
230	96	McAlpine (A)	230	+5	6.5	2.8	39.8
22	13	McCarthy & S	46	+2	0.5	1.4	....
548	272	Meyer Int	537	+14	....	2.3	53.8
129	62	Mowlem (J)	129	+2	4.0	3.9	....
166	51	NSM	153	....	....	....	....
53	48	Needler▲	48	....	....	3.7	22.4
185	106	Newman Tuks	161	+4	....	5.2	21.5
303	197	Persimmon	303	+3	8.5	3.5	30.9
26	10	Phoenix Timber	10	....	....	....	....
1725	1237½	Pochlns	1550	....	20.0	2.4	31.8
182	80	Prowting	182	+5	3.4	2.3	....
6½	1½	Quilligotti▲	1½	....	....	....	....
981	555	RMC Gp	957	+12	....	2.6	35.0
117	73½	Raine Ind	91	+5	....	4.1	21.5
36	18	Ramsay	33	....	....	....	....
602	402	Redland	599	+4	25.0	5.3	34.3
86	64	Redpl	80	....	4.3	6.7	11.8
342	202	Rugby Group	337	+4	6.4	2.4	25.8
68	23	Svrtld-Bvns▲	60	....	....	2.1	28.2
168	68	Sharpe & Fisher	102	....	....	2.8	62.8
369	256	Sheffield Inst	356	+1	....	2.2	∞
207	82	Sheriff Hdgs▲	207	+2	....	2.3	∞
98	66	Shorco▲	94	....	....	6.9	21.4
240	198	Smart (J)	228	....	....	4.7	17.2
6½	1½	Stanmnr	1½	....	....	....	....
169	103	Tarmac	168	+5	5.5	4.1	....
186	131	Tay Homes	165 †	....	....	4.6	23.4
142	83	Taylor Woodrw	138	-3	1.0	1.4	....
633	370	Tilbury Douglas	615	....	33.0	6.7	20.0
39	19	Toren Hldgs	35	....	....	1.4	....
313	166	Travis Perkins	313	+8	8.0	3.2	58.1
40	25	Tty Group	28	....	....	1.9	4.5	7.9
28	21	Tinsons	21	....	....	....	1.5	....
59	41	Tilhopsiant	57½	+1½	2.5	3.6	31.5
65	20	Ward Hldgs	49	+1	....	....	....
36	25	Waterhouse	33	....	....	....	....
475	360	Watts Blake	440	+6	....	3.4	19.0
21½	6½	Wescol▲	20	....	....	....	....
184	90	Westbury	184	+1	5.0	3.4	28.7
12	4½	West Scaffold▲	7	....	....	....	....
4½	2	Wiggins	3½	-½	....	....	....
429	262	Wilson Bowdn	429	+8	....	2.3	33.7
205	147	Wilson (C)	193	+2	3.0	2.3	33.4
194	104	Wimpey G	169	+2	....	3.9	....
47	15	YRM	19	....	0.5	3.3	....

BUSINESS SERVICES

675	463	ADT	584	....	13.0	6.5	4.6
253	198	Adam & Harvey	250	....	....	4.0	11.1
62	36	Air London▲	62	+1	2.0	5.7	....
56	37	Alfresco Lsure	44	....	....	3.4	22.1
173	93	Auto Sec	129	+1	....	2.0	5.5
140	84	BET Ord	137½	-1½	....	2.9	....
115	41	BNB Res	114	....	4.9	5.4	....
318	183	BPP	230	....	8.3	4.5	12.7
285	195	Barhour Index	235	-5	8.0	4.3	16.0
28	15	Bowmead	22	-1	0.7	4.6	....
269	184	Brt Data Mgt	212	-3	4.7	2.8	18.5
31	11	Broadcastdex	28	....	....	1.4	17.5
73	48	Brooks Service	67	-2	....	3.0	17.1
95	55	CHT Gp	91	....	....	3.3	21.4
304	139½	Capita Group	303	+5	....	1.4	31.7
45½	31	Cashe Plc	42½	+1	....	2.6	18.3
85	18½	Chiltern Capital	85	-5	....	....	....
35	26	Chrtsthe	35	+2	....	....	....
384	228	Chubb Sec	355 †	+2	....	1.8	20.9
116	90	Comsta	110	....	....	1.7	28.7
40	24	Corp Services	40	+2	....	....	....
40	20	Cosmic Cmtg	31	....	....	....	....
162	50	Dari	136 †	....	3.3	3.0	18.5
258	198	Davis Service	229	+3	....	4.3	16.6
134	95	EW Pacts	124	....	8.4	4.5	14.2
32	11	Gardiner	30	....	0.4	2.0	18.0
237	215	Hays	224	+6	....	2.4	23.9
248	174	Hogg Robinsn	237	+1	....	3.0	17.3
21	14	Holmes Protectn	19	....	....	1.5	22.5
134	127	Hunch Whamp	128	+6	....	1.6	14.7
575	375	ISS B Dkr	2125	+125	....	3.0	14.7
657	475	Inchcape	550	-11	....	3.2	17.0
675	669	Johnson Clean	864	+6	25.7	3.7	18.8
12	2½	Lep	7	....	....	....	....
288	173	Mills Gp	275	....	3.5	1.6	21.4
1187	893	Manpower	1041	+1	....	....	....
62	40½	Michael Page	59	....	1.8	3.8	25.1
209	115	Pennon	115	....	....	8.7	4.3
4½	2	Prime Peoples▲	3½	....	....	....	....
142	57	Proudfoot Alex	65	....	....	2.3	1.5
251	157	RCO	193	....	14.1	4.2	12.7
118	69	REA	97	+1	2.0	2.6	....
108	63	Reed Executive	97	+2	....	....	....
156	105	Reliance Secs	105	....	....	3.4	22.5
238	178	Remokil	220	+5	2.5	1.2	20.5
298	228	Rolfe & Nolan	280 †	....	....	3.2	16.4
369	319	Salvesen (C)	359 †	....	....	3.0	21.6
30	26	Scot Pickford▲	26	....	....	2.9	11.2
10	5	Select Appt▲	9	+1½	....	....	....
1558	695	Serco Gp	1223	....	13.3	1.3	20.2
192	83	Sherrd Compn	184	....	....	8.4	3.0
130	90	Staveley	130	....	....	3.8	22.9
355	310	Warner Howard	325	....	6.6	2.6	17.0
45	27	Welpac	28	....	....	....	....
28	14	Wills Gp	25	....	....	2.0	17.5

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

268	210	Allied Colloids	231	....	....	2.4	21.2
1020	613	Amersham	999	+1	....	1.7	28.8
7	1½	Anglo Utd	3½	+1	....	....	....
1113½	8325	BASF DM	1312 †	+300	....	3.9	24.2
301	199	BTP	301 †	....	20.5	3.9	....
1140½	1101½	Bayer DM50	1139½	+29½	....	3.9	....
119	113	Blagden	113	....	6.5	7.2	12.2
165	93	Brent Chems	128	+7	....	7.2	11.7
530	345	Br Bio-Tech	398	-2	....	....	....
39	5	Caird Gp	9½	....	....	22.2	16.0
180	126	Canning (W)	145	+3	....	7.3	6.3	16.6
609	521	Courtaulds	600	+3	....	3.8	11.7
347	238	Croda	331	....	....	3.0	19.0
198	103	Docflex	195	+1	4.8	4.9	21.0
226	175	Ellis & Everard	220	+1	....	1.1	17.0
154	114	Enro Colour	154	+1	0.5	1.3	22.2
348	259	Halstead (J)	348	....	....	3.6	16.5
341	150	Hickson	178	+2	....	5.6	....
6318	5800	Hoechst	6175	+250	....	3.2	15.1
289	163	Holliday Chem	166	....	....	4.5	....
780	608	ICI	780	-9	....	6.5	....
717	576	Laporte	716	+6	19.9	3.5	19.8
230	181	Leigh	181 †	+3	....	5.1	16.8
97½	38	MTM	45	-2½	....	....	....
2050	1462½	Pipeline Hydro	1878	....	....	1.5	26.7

DRAPERY, STORES

102	83	Alexon	96	....	....	5.7	....
93	62	Amber Day	67 †	+4	1.3	2.5	∞
376	257	Argos Plc	376	+2	....	2.4	12.1
25	9½	Ashley Group	11	....	....	2.1	....
118	69	Ashley (Laura)	73	....	....	4.7	10.3
230	228	Asprey	227 †	-3	....	5.2	21.1	19.8
197	94	Austin Reed	159	+5	....	....	2.8
155	125	Beattie (J) 'A'	148	....	....	5.2	14.9
121	94	Benrath	110	....	1.9	2.2	....
278	132	Betterware	133	-12	....	7.4	15.9
67	22	Blacks Leis	38 †	....	2.2	7.4	....
327	133	Body Shop	230	....	....	1.0	26.4
16½	9½	Brown & Jackson	11½	+½	....	0.9	5.9
434	318	Brown (N)	422	....	....	2.2	24.8
87½	60½	Burton	62	-1½	2.0	4.1	∞
195	126	Cantors	195	....	....	2.6	27.2
360	295	Church	333	....	12.5	4.7	20.5
185	69	Clinton Cards	185	....	4.3	3.5	18.7
280½	212	Coats Viyella	267	+2	....	3.5	36.9
112	78	Colourvision▲	83	....	....	5.6	8.4	14.9
181	156	Cray Cmnnls	157	....	....	3.5	14.6
935	374	Courts Furnish	870	....	5.6	0.6	11.1
155	115	Crown Eyew	150 †	+10	....	6.5	10.3
130	98	Dalry Farm Intl	118	+1	....	3.1	17.3
96½	51½	Dewhirst (G)	90½	+1½	0.8	1.0	21.0
293	189	Dixons Grp	269	+2	....	4.0	16.7
21	8	DIA Gp	9½	....	....	....	....
530	400	Elys (Wimbldn)	530	....	16.0	3.8	18.2
166	71	Essex Furn	164	+4	....	2.7	28.2
273	205	Etam	270	....	7.0	2.6	23.1
688	499	Fine Art Dev	541 †	-1	13.0	3.0	17.6
70	26	Fired Earth Tiles	47	....	....	....	....
638	498	Formfitter	638	+5	14.0	2.7	11.6
180	94	French Conn▲	179	....	....	....	....
74	43	Gent SR	66	....	....	4.0	20.5
78	23	Goldsmiths Gp	78	....	0.3	0.4	18.6
624	324	Gtnts	624	....	....	2.4	18.6
40	21	Hampden Grp▲	21	-2	....	0.0	10.4
77	30	Harrisons	57	....	....	....	....
337	30	Helene Plc	29½	-2½	2.0	8.5	13.0
91	29	Hestington	91 †	+2½	....	....	....
400	315	Holmes Place	400	+5	....	1.3	15.0
74	43	Jacques Vert	179	....	....	2.1	13.7
179	63	Jaeger	177	....	....	2.1	13.7
751½	496	Kingfisher	717	+7	....	4.0	14.0
74	42½	Leslie Wise Gp	71	....	7.2	1.7	63.0
465	295	Liberty	335	....	....	1.1	24.7
342	241	Lloyds Chem	342	+1	....	3.5	15.1
159½	120	MFI	159	+1	....	2.9	33.4
457	311	Marks Spencer	457½	+1	....	2.9	19.1
580	445	Marshes (John)	564	-1	....	3.5	19.4
253	195	Moss Bros	236	....	5.5	2.6	27.7
212	139½	Next	212	+4	3.5	2.1	25.3
41	15	Oliver (G)	38	....	....	....	....
327	197	Orthonne Int	315	....	4.0	1.3	15.2
65	24	Pennos	39½	....	0.8	4.1	5.1
313	185	QS Hldgs	235	....	5.1	2.9	16.0
669	498	Rhino Grp▲	665	+2	....	3.5	21.0
175	120	Ricardo	168	+2	....	2.2	13.2
138	135	Sherwood Gp	147	....	....	....	....
131½	93	Sexx	127½	+½	....	3.4	....
41½	11	Signet Group	20½	+2	....	....	....
400	248	Smith WH 'A'	317	....	....	3.4	16.9
35½	23½	Specialsizes▲	30	....	....	....	....
235	178	Stonehouse	234½	+½	....	2.7	22.9
191	147	T & S Stores	147	....	6.0	5.1	10.9
182	71	Tie Rack	159	+1	1.0	0.6	51.5
299	140	Time Products	294	....	7.7	4.1	20.2
128	63	Usher (Frank)▲	111	+1	....	1.9	18.4
395	302	Vendome	395	+22	....	1.9	18.4
43	27	Vivat	36	....	1.0	2.5	11.1
88	34	Wagstaffs▲	44	....	....	....	....
120	76	Wickes	109	+2	....	0.2	49.6
78	45	Wld of Leather▲	54	....	....	....	....
192½	142	Wyevale	176	+1	....	1.0	23.3
4	2½	Xtra-vision▲	2½	....	....	....	....

ELECTRICALS

187	134	ACT Group	147	-2	....	4.3	14.8
275	222	Acal▲	263 †	....	....	3.1	18.9
162½	38	Acorn Comp▲	81	....	....	....	41.1
480	385	Admiral	475	-1	5.7	1.5	20.6
170	106	Alba	163	....	....	3.7	18.4
90	19	Alphameric	39½	....	....	....	....
56	22	Amstrad	40½	....	0.5	1.5	∞
128	61	App Halo▲	79	....	....	....	....
43	9	Arlen	32	+1	....	0.4	....
88	35½	Astec	75½	+1	....	5.0	14.5
203	224	Beales Hamer	235	....	....	....	....
9	2	Bennett & Fount	2½	....	....	....	....
446	319	BICC	415	-1	19.2	5.8	....
298	208	Black	270	....	10.2	2.8	∞
1700	925	Borland▲	1150	-38	....	....	....
384	270	Bowthorpe	368 †	+1	....	2.3	24.4
498½	376	BT	476 †	+6	....	4.2	18.4
2225	1501	BT PF	2207	+9	....	4.2	22.7
18½	5½	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	15	+½	0.1	0.8	....
160	48	Burnfield	69	....	5.7	10.4	10.9
511	334½	Cable Wireless	502 †	+8	....	1.9	28.2
27½	11½	Chlloride	22½	-1	....	....	....
273	220	Cmi Micro▲	270	....	....	2.2	19.6
115	74	Comptr People	108	....	....	....	....
164	108½	Cray Elect	148	....	....	1.3	15.2
435	243	Cstckny	421 †	....	....	1.4	24.2
534	414	Delta	494	+4	....	3.9	20.2
443	265	Dennards Elc▲	443	....	....	1.7	18.9
620	395	Duralne	418	-1	7.4	2.2	14.3
66	48	Dowding Mills	65½	....	....	4.8	18.1
1220	865	Dtsch Bnk	1210	+5	10.0	1.0	25.8
307	259	Electrocomponents	305	+2	....	2.1	20.6
710	470	El Data Plc	535	....	....	5.5	1.3	∞
146	43	Electron House	135	....	....	2.6	24.5	29.6
30½	10½	Emess	21½	....	....	1.5	22.7	....
672	462	Eurotherm	672	+5	8.5	1.6	20.6
195	108	Flt	195	+4	....	2.1	28.6
554	340	Farnell Elect	554	+4	....	1.5	29.3
91	33	Feedback▲	71 †	....	....	2.5	28.7
18	1	Fermnit	1 #	....	....	....	....
304	101	First Tech	295	....	....	0.9	24.5
290	81	Forward Gps	233	-2	....	2.1	16.5
22½	13½	Forward Tech	14	....	....	....	....
367½	264	GEC	352 †	-1	10.4	4.1	16.0
199	132	Gresley	158	+9	....	8.6	33.2
14	7½	Grayshott	11	....	....	....	....
52	35	Hildenbrd▲	40 †	....	....	1.9	14.5
160	83	INSTEM▲	135	....	....	2.9	9.7
198	118	Ind Control	150	....	....	3.7	15.1
388	320	Jones Stroud	368	....	....	2.8	16.6
105	26	Kalamazoo	99 †	....	2.7	3.4	23.0
19	8	Kembrey	12½	....	0.1	1.6	....
349	260

Market leader prepares for daunting task

Lee Richardson has been recruited to revive the popularity of racing. Richard Evans reports



Richardson starts his high-profile role by focusing attention on three target groups, owners, punters and racegoers. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Lee Richardson, a former Hertz executive hired to market racing throughout Britain for the first time, will visit Ascot today with the words of a wealthy American friend ringing in his ears.

"He is a keen racegoer who sponsors races in the States, and he asked me a simple question to which I did not have an answer," Richardson said. "He said why was it when he went to his formal but unstuffy racing event at Churchill Downs he wanted to return for more, but when he came to Royal Ascot, our formal racing event, he found it stuffy and never wanted to come back."

Richardson, a man who speaks about delivery of the racegoing experience, customer lifetime value and target groups, may begin to learn why this afternoon as he steps into a timewarp of consumer unfriendliness where all too often the marketing gospel is "Thou shalt not."

Ascot epitomises what is right and wrong with British racing — and the task facing a man fortunate enough to find a job embracing his twin passions, racing and marketing. The royal racecourse, along with many others, provides outstanding racing. Yet it has succeeded in losing — or even driving away — spectators and owners.

The deep-seated problems facing Ascot are what prompted Lord Hartington, one of the course's trustees, to ask Richardson to offer advice and help. The need to sell racing or revive its popularity is why the British Horseracing Board (BHB), chaired by Hartington, recruited Richardson as their £60,000 a year marketing director in the autumn. After leaving school at 16 and qualifying as an engineer with General Motors, Richardson switched to marketing and Hertz in the early Eighties, accelerating up the executive ladder. He would still be director of marketing planning and happily reporting to the vice-president of the company's European division but for spotting a throwaway paragraph about the BHB job in a trade magazine.

A speculative letter saw him become a last-minute addition to the short list drawn up by a firm of headhunters. Two interviews, and three weeks later, the job was his.

Although he has been racing for two thirds of his 36 years and still remembers with joy his "touch" on Shiny Copper, the 66-1 winner of the 1982 Triumph Hurdle, (a classic car was bought with the proceeds). Richardson is essentially a marketeer and an outsider to the sport — just what Lord Hartington and his colleagues were seeking.

Now seven weeks into the job, Richardson is well aware that marketing of racing is suddenly flavour of the month. Much is expected, yet the problems are considerable.

A decline in course attendances, the high turnover of owners, the fall in betting, growing public apathy to the Derby and other top events, and the ageing, downmarket profile of many of those still interested in racing pose a sizeable challenge.

Owners, punters and racegoers are the three target groups upon which racing is dependent. "If those groups are thriving everybody makes their living. So while there are 101 other issues coming at me from all sides, they will always be treated according to how they affect those three groups."

"With the formation of the BHB, racing has recognised by definition that marketing is the key. I have been a consumer of the product for more than 15 years and it has always frustrated me that the sport I loved did not do more to sell itself to the unconverted."

Now he has the opportunity to raise racing's public profile, increase ownership, attract more sponsorship — and get more people through the turnstiles. "Racecourses and everyone needs to understand what we are in competition with," Richardson said. "It is taking the kids to MacDonalds and then to the movies, Alton Towers or Thorpe Park, or a day out at the seaside. It is not necessarily other sports events. It is a whole range of leisure activities."

Enticing people to sample the thrill, theatre and excitement at a racecourse for the first time is not easy. All too often it is an uncomfortable encounter, or as Richardson put it: "The delivery of the racegoing experience is very variable."

As he pointed out, Cheltenham is the only racecourse in Britain to have gone through the BS5750 quality management process to guarantee customer service levels. "I would like a lot more racecourses to go down that path," he said.

"The challenge for me is to set up promotional activities which drive new racegoers to those racecourses where an excellent experience is almost guaranteed."

And, he might have added, to nudge those racecourses — Ascot and Newmarket are two prime examples — which have failed to keep up with the revolution in consumers' expectations and demands. Staging high-class racing is, by itself, no longer sufficient.

Richardson spoke of the need to treat a potential owner in the same way as someone buying a luxury car; how joint and third-party promotions involving companies ranging from manufacturers of breakfast cereals to tabloid newspapers, could boost racecourse crowds, and how to attract a racegoer for a lifetime.

To coin a phrase, his delivery of the marketing experience is admirable. Who knows, his American friend may soon be able to look forward to returning to Ascot.

Wigan present toughest test

BY A CORRESPONDENT

WARRINGTON, the form team in the first division, face their toughest challenge of the season so far when they take on Wigan, the holders, in the quarter-final of the Regal Trophy at Wilderspool this afternoon.

The Cheshire side, inspired by Jonathan Davies, lead the championship, but, as always, the test of a good side is often how it fares against Wigan. Warrington are on the crest of a wave, but will need to be on top form if they are to wrest the trophy away from Central Park.

Bradford Northern are another team who aspire to Wigan's crown and their reward for finally overcoming Halifax in a much-delayed third round tie is a trip to London tomorrow to face the Crusaders. It is the first time the London side have reached a final eight.

While the Crusaders have performed impressively on the field, this has not been matched by events off it. The Rugby Football League recently stepped in to take over the club while a new consortium is being put together to run things at the Copthall Stadium.

The biggest crowd of the season is expected at the north London ground tomorrow, but Crusaders will need to raise their game to new heights if they are to overcome Bradford.

Carlisle are also moving in uncharted waters with their quarter-final tie at Castleford. If London Crusaders face a stiff challenge, then Carlisle would seem to be in need of a minor miracle to win at Wheldon Road.

A far more intriguing tie takes place at the Willows where a rejuvenated Salford take on Hull. Both have had their problems this season and both can thank influential halfbacks for a recovery in form. Salford's signing of Andy Gregory could turn out to be an even better piece of business than Warrington's signing of Jonathan Davies, particularly if the little scrum half helps them to avoid relegation. Home advantage could prove decisive in this tie.

Whitaker brothers enjoy team effort

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

MICHAEL Whitaker brought the packed Olympia Hall to its feet yesterday when he and Everest Lifestyle won the Christmas Pudding Accumulator after an exhilarating round against the clock.

Whitaker, who has won three competitions at the show this week, had to beat the fast time of the German Olympic rider, Franke Sloothaak, on San Patrignano Mister. He was helped by John Whitaker, his elder brother, who, having watched Sloothaak's round, explained where he could save time over the eight-fence course.

Such is the trust between the brothers, ranked first and second in the world at present, that the plan worked to perfection. Everest Lifestyle, a Belgian mare who was formerly ridden by Michael's wife, Veronique, until she found her too strong, put that strength to impressive effect.

Although this is only her fourth show since spraining a fetlock at Rotterdam in September, Lifestyle was quickly into her stride. Hurtling round the course, she took the vital strides out between the last two fences to finish 0.32sec ahead of the German.

Whitaker will renew rivalry with Sloothaak today when they compete in the Volvo World Cup qualifier, the richest class of the week. Whitaker, who rides Everest Two Step, won in Bordeaux earlier this month. Sloothaak won the Berlin qualifier in November.

Earlier yesterday, Markus Fuchs, of Switzerland, became the first foreign rider to win a class at the show when he recorded the fastest time in the Christmas Cracker Two Horse competition. Fuchs, who was the reserve rider for the gold medal-winning Swiss team at the European championships in August, put up a thrilling performance on his two horses, Adelfos and Singapur, to finish a fraction ahead of Nigel Coupe, of Britain.

Nick Skelton, though out of luck yesterday after Everest Major Wager refused the second fence, made himself the leading money-winner at the show after his stirring win on Everest Dollar Girl in the Turkey Stakes late on Thursday night.

He looked as if he might have been over-ambitious in the nine-horse jump off when Dollar Girl all but fell as she turned sharply after the second fence, but, undaunted, Skelton, who was leading rider at Olympia last year, sped round the remaining five fences, taking a flyer at the last to finish more than a second ahead of Lars Nieberg, of Germany, on Nistria.

The £3,100 win brought Skelton's winnings for the year to around £350,000. Nearly a third of that figure was won by Dollar Girl in the Calgary Grand Prix last September.

☐ Emile Faurie, the winner of the individual bronze medal and team silver at the European dressage championships in September, was presented with the British Equestrian Writers Association's Trophy for the Equestrian Personality of the Year at Olympia yesterday. Terry Boon won the Vivien Batchelor Trophy for the best Young Rider. Ronnie Massarella was the first recipient of the Liz Dudden Trophy for the person making the greatest contribution to equestrian sport.

RESULTS

CHRISTMAS PUDDING ACCUMULATOR: 1, Everest Lifestyle (M Whitaker, GB) 0 flts in 32.70sec; 2, San Patrignano Mister (F Sloothark, Ger) 0, 33.02; 3, Wessex Fields of Athenry (P Sutton, GB) 0, 38.71.
CHRISTMAS CRACKER TWO-HORSE COMPETITION: 1, Adelfos A & C Folien and Singapur (M Fuchs, Switz) 1min 19.68sec; 2, Balou and O'Flynn (N Coupe, GB) 1:10.90; 3, Clover and Lucilla (R Smith, GB) 1:12.38.
CHRISTMAS TURKEY STAKES: 1, Everest Dollar Girl (N Skelton, GB) 0 flts in 27.91sec; 2, Nistria (L. Nieberg, Ger) 0, 29.25; 3, Concorde C (W Melliger, Switz) 0, 35.29

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Markus Fuchs, on Adelfos, on his way to victory at Olympia yesterday

Rashid gives Pakistan hope

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

RASHID Latif, the Pakistan wicketkeeper, held three brilliant catches as Zimbabwe's cricketers struggled to press home their advantage in the third and final Test in Lahore yesterday.

Zimbabwe, 15 without loss overnight, were 110 for three in reply to Pakistan's first innings total of 147 at the close of a curtailed second day. Heavy mist delayed the start by 105 minutes and bad light ended play 25 minutes early.

Pakistan, with a winning 2-0 lead in the series, struck an early blow when Mark Dekker was dismissed in the second over by Wasim Akram without adding to his overnight score of two. Dekker was brilliantly caught down the legside by Latif as he attempted to leg glance the Pakistan captain.

Pakistan's second success came with the total on 35 when Alistair Campbell, who scored 63 and 75 in the second Test, edged Waqar Younis to Latif, who dived to his left to bring off another catch.

Grant Flower was joined by Houghton and the pair flourished in a courageous third-wicket stand of 53 against the pace and swing of Waqar and Akram. Flower was out on the stroke of tea when Latif made another diving catch, this time off Ata-Ur-Rehman, the third seamer. Flower made 30 off 119 balls in 167 minutes, having survived a blow when a rising delivery from Waqar hit the visor of his helmet. The batsman fell and needed field treatment on the field, but, although shaken, he resumed his innings. Houghton struck eight fours in the 92 deliveries he faced.

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: First innings: 147 (D Brain 5 for 42).

ZIMBABWE: First innings

G W Flower c Rashid b Rehman	30
M W Dekker c Rashid b Akram	2
A D R Campbell c Rashid b Younis	6
D L Houghton not out	47
*†A Flower not out	10
Extras (b 6, lb 5, nb 4, w 1)	15
Total (3 wkts)	110

D H Streak, G J Whittall, W James, D Brain, E A Brandes and J A Rennie to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-35, 3-88.
BOWLING: Wasim 17.1-5-33-1 (nb 4); Waqar 16-6-38-1 (w 1); Rehman 10-4-20-1; Mushtaq Ahmed 4-1-9-0.
Umpires: Khizer Hayat and Athar Zaidi.

Florida bound in search of fame and fortune

Angela Buxton reports on the Britons hoping to make a good impression at the Orange Bowl junior tennis championships in Miami

WHILE most youngsters are excitedly writing Christmas cards and wrapping presents this weekend, over 1,400 talented tennis players from all over the world will be competing in Miami, Florida, at the Orange Bowl junior championships (14s and under, 16s and under and 18s and under), often referred to as the world junior championships.

The competition continues on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. After Amanda Wainwright, of Great Britain, had beaten the No 1 seed in the 16s girls' event last year, she was asked how she felt about playing her semi-final on Christmas Day. She laughed. "Golly, is it Christmas tomorrow? I had no idea."

To these motivated youngsters, the time of the year means nothing. The winners here receive large silver bowls invariably filled with plastic oranges. But the prestige of winning that promises a route to fame and fortune.

Manipulative coaches and pushy parents are par for the course in today's cut-throat junior tennis, while well-heeled managing agents prowl around the netting and between the courts like hungry wolves looking for prey. Their prey is the unique combination of talent and charisma. All the players are talented.

Nominations from national tennis associations are a prerequisite for applications to the tournament. In the 14s age group — the qualifying for which opened proceedings on Wednesday — 57 countries are represented and the number of places allocated to each country depend on its size, its success historically and how many players it has sent in the past. Great Britain has had four places reserved in each event in recent years.

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) filled only three of the four in the boys' 14-and-under category. They are James Trotman, from Suffolk, and Jon Monk, from Sussex, who are 14, and Daniel Kiernan, 13, from County Durham. When Trotman was 11 his father, who works for British Telecom and is a part-time tennis coach, said: "My boy is a real sportsman and he ought to be given a chance at the LTA's élite school at Bisham Abbey." He is now one of the leading lights at Bisham and his progress is being closely monitored by Ian Barclay, the national coach, who was responsible for the success of the Wimbledon winner, Pat Cash. Barclay recently said: "James reminds me so much of Pat at that age." They are working as a team in Florida, allowing Trotman the ideal stage on which to shine.



Wainwright: interest



Delgado: former winner

However, one of the most talented, charismatic and motivated British players in that age group is conspicuous by his absence. Daniel Belcher, from Cheshire, was omitted from the official team, entered independently but has had to pull out.

Tom Carless, the organising chairman of the 14-and-under age group, said: "We try not to turn anyone away if possible. We do take people into qualifying privately if there is space. Our concept is to let as many as possible play and benefit from our competition. We obviously try and get the best players but we also want everyone to have an opportunity." A late addition for the British contingent was 11-year-old Hannah Collin, from Thames Ditton, Surrey, who is travelling with her coach, Sharon Walsh, the former United States Wightman Cup player now working for the LTA.

The 16s and 18s main competition starts tomorrow, when most of the British interest will focus on the direct entries of Jamie Delgado, from Warwickshire, who won the 14s in 1991 and is competing for the second year in the 16s, and Wainwright, 17, from Essex, who has moved up into the 18s.

☐ Monica Seles is aiming to return to competitive tennis in time for the Australian Open in January, her leading rival, Steffi Graf, said yesterday. "We spoke to each other a few weeks ago," Graf said. "She is hoping to be back for the Australian and is working hard towards that goal. I hope she will quickly get back to her best level after the awful thing that happened to her." Seles has not played since being stabbed at a tournament in Hamburg in April.

هكذا من الأصل

CEMBER 18 1993

uring against burglaries

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party and damages the pr... ould feel rather differently ... sturgeon, a director of Hom... that inevitably a few clien... been burgled in the firm's ... ng. But "More often than ... sitter has scared the burgl... firm recommends that anyo... a house-sitter should ma... contract is with the house-sitt... r than the sitter and that ... rofessional indemnity cover...

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NTED LIFE ICIES?

مكتب الأمل

Very Very Ordinary to provide perfect result for sponsor

Upson can end barren spell

By Julian Muscat

JOHN Upson, the Towcester-based trainer without a winner in six weeks, has an excellent opportunity to put many of the season's disappointments behind him at Ascot today.

In addition to increasing his tally of just two victories this term, Upson can indulge in a well-timed public relations exercise when he saddles **Very Very Ordinary** for the Betterware Cup Handicap Chase over an extended three miles. Very Very Ordinary is owned by Wendy Cohen, wife of Andrew, whose company sponsors this £30,000-added prize.

Yet a victory for the improving seven-year-old would owe nothing to happy coincidence. Very Very Ordinary is something of an Ascot specialist and is clearly coming to hand if judged on his unlucky last-fence tumble at Haydock recently after which he was remounted to finish third.

The attentions of a loose horse undoubtedly precipitated that fall, but for which, Very Very Ordinary would probably have beaten Gambling Royal. Sensibly, the latter declines a re-match on 5lb worse terms.

Indeed, given the chance, Upson could hardly have scripted a better winning opportunity. Young Hustler and Capability Brown, who between them pose the greatest threat to Very Very Ordinary, are confirmed front-runners who could easily compromise each other in their own private contest for the lead. That so nearly happened at Cheltenham in March, on the only occasion the pair have met. After a regal battle Capability Brown crashed through the fourteenth fence leaving an exhausted Young Hustler to struggle home three lengths ahead of the disappointing Superior Finish.

Very Very Ordinary, meanwhile, will do his own thing in rear, with Robbie Supple content to save the horse for his renowned finishing kick. With the ground likely to ride on the soft side of good and more rain forecast, Very Very Ordinary should gain his third victory over this course and distance.

It was nearly two years ago that Uncle Ernie disputed favouritism with Remittance Man for the Arkle Trophy at the Cheltenham festival. The two have since met with contrasting fortunes but Uncle Ernie has retained plenty of zest when apprentice-ridden over hurdles at Wetherby earlier this month.

Rather than pursue an easier option, Jimmy Fitzgerald has chosen the Frogmore Handicap Chase at Ascot in which to reintroduce Uncle Ernie to fences. The astute handler has been pleased with his horse's recent spins alongside his stable companion, Sybillin.

With Sybillin's excellent Sandown victory of two weeks ago still fresh in the memory, **Uncle Ernie** is selected to outpoint another talented collection of two-mile chasers, among them Wonder Man, Young Snugfit and Billy Bathgate. **Baydon Star** should maintain his unbeaten record over fences at the expense of Big Beat in the opening Noel Novices' Chase.

Elsewhere, **Postman's Path** can atone for a recent narrow defeat at Towcester in the Stain Mellor Handicap Chase at Nottingham.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ABSALOM'S LADY
(12.50 Ascot)

Next best: Lusty Light
(2.15 Nottingham)

Richard Evans landed a near 6½-1 double yesterday with his nap, Trimlough (5-4), and Roc Color (9-4).



Upson is fancied to make up for lost time at Ascot

ASCOT

THUNDERER

12.15 Baydon Star
12.50 Absalom's Lady
1.20 Shuil Ar Aghaidh
1.55 WINDY WAYS (nap)
2.30 Uncle Ernie
3.00 The Decent Thing

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.55 YOUNG HUSTLER.

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.15 NOEL NOVICES CHASE
(Grade II: £8,918: 2m 3f 110yd) (8 runners)

101 13-1111 BAYDON STAR 14 (C,G,S) (Mrs S Robins) D Nicholson 6-11-10 ... A Maguire 88
102 1245-31 BIG BEAT 15 (G,S) (R Richards) D Elsworth 5-11-7 ... P Holley 88
103 41-3131 EASY BUCK 9 (C,D,F,G,S) (The Burford Laundry Company Ltd) N Gaselee 6-11-3 C Maude 88
104 0-63502 MONAUGHTY MAN 32 (Mrs K Woodhead) E Cains 7-11-3 ... P Williams 50
105 1/212-2F MONSIEUR LE CURE 14 (BF,G,S) (H Brown) J Edwards 7-11-3 ... P Niven 79
106 2F/24F1 POPPETS PET 19 (G) (D Line) J Mulline 6-11-3 ... S Hodgson 84
107 22F/P4 RUNNING SANDS 17 (S) (Mrs S Willis) R Rowe 9-11-3 ... G McCourt 59
108 11F-522 WANDERWEG 9 (S) (J Freewell) P Leach 5-11-3 ... H Davies 79

BETTING: 4-5 Baydon Star, 3-1 Big Beat, 8-1 Easy Buck, 10-1 Monsieur Le Cure, 16-1 Wanderweg, 20-1 others.

1992: RETAIL RUNNER 7-11-3 D Murphy (9-2) J Gifford 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BAYDON STAR beat One More Dream 6l in the 4-runner grade II Henry VII Novices' Chase at Sandown (2m, good). Previously, beat Strong Views 10l in the 6-runner grade II Hurst Park Novices' Chase here (2m, good), with EASY BUCK 2¾l 3rd. BIG BEAT beat Crystal Bear distance in a 5-runner novice chase at Exeter (2m 2f, good). MONAUGHTY MAN 6l 2nd of 6 to Lo Stregone in a novice chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, good to soft). MONSIEUR LE CURE 10l 2nd of 4 to One Man in a novice chase at Haydock on penultimate start (2m 4f, good to soft). POPPETS PET beat Howaryadoon 2l in a 13-runner novice handicap chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, good).
Selection: BAYDON STAR

12.50 KNIGHTS ROYAL HURDLE BBC1
(£5,524: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

201 12232-6 KILCASH 14 (B,CD,G,S) (J Whelan) P Hedger 5-11-5 ... M Richards 88
202 133P-50 MAJOR BUGLER 57 (D,S) (C Buckle) G Balding 4-11-5 ... R Dunwoody 82
203 30-3232 SATIN LOVER 7 (CD,G,S) (D Hall) N Tinkler 5-11-5 ... G McCourt 91
204 3/55131- PONTYNYSWEN 210 (D,G,S) (J Thomas) D Burchell 5-10-12 ... A Maguire 87
205 0-0 SOUND REVEILLE 21 (Mrs G Abecassis) C Brooks 5-10-12 ... M A Fitzgerald —
206 3122/2-1 ABSALOM'S LADY 15 (D,G) (Whitcombe Racing Ltd) D Elsworth 5-10-7 ... P Holley 98
207 12-2 HIGHBROOK 14 (N Cook) M Tompkins 5-10-7 ... D Murphy 96
208 014348- SHARRIBA 235 (D,S) (Non-Stop Promotions Ltd) G Humphrey 4-10-7 ... C Llewellyn 87

BETTING: 2-1 Absalom's Lady, 3-1 Satin Lover, 5-1 Highbrook, 6-1 Kilcash, 10-1 Pontynyswen, Sharriba, 12-1 Major Bugler, 20-1 Sound Reveille.

1992: BAYDON STAR 5-11-8 R Dunwoody (8-15 fav) D Nicholson 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

KILCASH neck 2nd of 25 to Glencloud in the grade I Ladbroke Handicap Hurdle at Leopardstown on penultimate start (2m, yielding). SATIN LOVER 3l 2nd of 7 to Dance of Words in a hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 4f, good). PONTYNYSWEN beat Major's Law 10l in an 8-runner novice hurdle at Southwell (AW, 2m, standard). ABSALOM'S LADY beat Island Jewel 5l in a 13-runner handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good). HIGHBROOK neck 2nd of 12 to Land Afar in the grade II William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft), with KILCASH (1lb worse off) 7¼l 8th. SHARRIBA 5l 4th of 8 to Titled Dancer in the grade II Glenlivet Anniversary Novices' Hurdle at Aintree on penultimate start (2m 110yd, firm).
Selection: SATIN LOVER

1.20 LONG WALK HURDLE BBC1
(Grade I: £25,372: 3m 1f 110yd) (9 runners)

301 11324-2 AVRO ANSON 42 (BF,F,G) (B Slaton) M Camacho 5-11-7 ... D Byrne 89
302 03/4020- BALASANI 63F (F,G) (M Smith) M Pipe 7-11-7 ... R Dunwoody 92
303 030-221 BOLLIN WILLIAM 10 (S) (Sir Neil Westbrook) M H Easterby 5-11-7 ... L Wyer 98
304 305-333 BURGOYNE 21 (D,G) (P Savill) M H Easterby 7-11-7 ... P Niven 93
305 0111-42 MARDOOD 19 (BF,G,S) (J Frewell) P Leach 8-11-7 ... H Davies 67
306 25/321-1 PEATSWOOD 31 (G,S) (P Taplin) M Chapman 5-11-7 ... Lorna Vincent 70
307 110-222 SWEET DUKE 21 (C,G,S) (A Mavrou) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-7 ... C Llewellyn 98
308 3434/11 TRIPLE WITCHING 21 (D,G,S) (Mrs S Robins) D Nicholson 7-11-7 ... A Maguire 97
309 23R21-2 SHUIL AR AGHAIDH 14 (F,G,S) (Mrs P Kiely) P Kiely (Ire) 7-11-2 ... C Swan 88

BETTING: 5-2 Shuil Ar Aghaidh, Triple Witching, 3-1 Sweet Duke, 8-1 Avro Anson, 12-1 Balasani, 14-1 Bollin William, 16-1 Burgoyne, 50-1 others.

1992: VAGOG 7-11-7 M Foster (15-2) M Pipe 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

AVRO ANSON 7¾l 4th of 15 to Olympian in the Sunderlands Imperial Cup Handicap Hurdle at Sandown on penultimate start (2m 110yd, firm). BOLLIN WILLIAM beat Deb's Ball 20l in 6-runner the grade II Waterloo Hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, soft). PEATSWOOD beat Wings Of Freedom 1½l in a 5-runner handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good). SWEET DUKE 3½l 2nd of 6 to King Credo in the grade II Coopers & Lybrand Ascot Hurdle, here, on penultimate start (2m 4f, good). TRIPLE WITCHING beat SWEET DUKE (7lb better off) 6l in the 7-runner grade II Alcoo Long Distance Hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, good), with BURGOYNE (4lb better off) 1¼l 3rd. Previously, beat AVRO ANSON (10lb better off) 3l in the 19-runner Tote Silver Trophy Handicap Hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good). SHUIL AR AGHAIDH beat Pragada 2½l in the 12-runner grade I BonusPrint Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham on penultimate start (3m 110yd, good to firm), with SWEET DUKE 11l 4th and BURGOYNE tailed off 9th.
Selection: TRIPLE WITCHING (nap)

1.55 BETTERWARE CUP HANDICAP CHASE BBC1
(£23,207: 3m 110yd) (8 runners)

401 1213-22 YOUNG HUSTLER 7 (D,F,G,S) (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-10 ... C Llewellyn 88
402 01111U- CAPABILITY BROWN 276 (CD,F,G,S) (D Lewis) M Pipe 6-11-5 ... R Dunwoody 89
403 11P3-43 VERY VERY ORDINARY 10 (CD,G,S) (Mrs W Cohen) J Upson 7-11-5 ... R Supple 86
404 42VP-14 LATENT TALENT 15 (B,CD,G,S) (C Heain) S Sherwood 9-11-4 ... M Richards 90
405 11-FP00 FLASHTHECASH 8 (D,F,S) (Dr G Madan Mohan) G Balding 7-10-12 ... A Maguire 89
406 3134-23 FIGHTING WORDS 14 (F,G) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 7-10-8 ... D Murphy 89
407 F1V3-13 MISTER ED 28 (D,F,G,S) (The Talking Horse Partnership) R Curtis 10-10-8 ... D Morris 92
408 31PF2-5 WINDY WAYS 21 (F,G) (Mrs P Sherwood) N Henderson 8-10-4 ... M A Fitzgerald 90

BETTING: 11-8 Young Hustler, 7-2 Very Very Ordinary, 4-1 Capability Brown, 12-1 Latent Talent, 14-1 Fighting Words, 16-1 Flashthecash, 20-1 Mister Ed, Windy Ways.

1992: CAPTAIN DIBBLE 7-10-1 C Llewellyn (7-1) N Twiston-Davies 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

YOUNG HUSTLER 3l 2nd of 11 to Fragrant Dawn in the grade II Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good). CAPABILITY BROWN beat Dalkeys Boy 10l in the 4-runner grade II Reynoldstown Novices' Chase, over course and distance, on penultimate start (good to soft). VERY VERY ORDINARY's best effort came when beating Calapaez 2½l in a 7-runner handicap chase, over course and distance, last season (good to soft). LATENT TALENT beat Springaleak 3l in a 7-runner handicap chase, over course and distance, on penultimate start (good). FLASHTHECASH 41½l 7th of 8 behind Flashing Steel in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good). FIGHTING WORDS 7½l 3rd of 6 to Young Benz in a handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good). MISTER ED 9½l 3rd of 11 to Indian Tonic in a handicap chase at Aintree (3m 3f, good). WINDY WAYS 30½l last of 5 finishers behind Light Veneer in a 7-runner handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good).
Selection: YOUNG HUSTLER

2.30 FROGMORE HANDICAP CHASE (£9,531: 2m) (5 runners)

501 11222-2 WONDER MAN 21 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs S Robins) D Nicholson 8-12-0 ... A Maguire 98
502 UAP-221 YOUNG SNUGFIT 21 (CD,F,G,S) (M Oberstein) O Sherwood 9-11-12 ... J McCarthy (5) 98
503 1435-58 UNCLE ERNIE 14 (CD,G,S) (J Fitzgerald) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-11-7 ... M Dwyer 88
504 3412-15 BILLY BATHGATE 49 (D,BF,F,G,S) (M Buckley) N Henderson 7-10-3 ... M A Fitzgerald 98
505 0-2302F LUCKY AGAIN 30 (D,G) (A Carns) C Popham 6-10-0 ... R Dunwoody 70

Long handicap: Lucky Again 7-6.

BETTING: 10-11 Wonder Man, 7-4 Young Snugfit, 8-1 Billy Bathgate, 12-1 Uncle Ernie, 66-1 Lucky Again.

1992: CYPHRATE 6-11-2 P Scudamore (9-2) M Pipe 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

WONDER MAN 1l 2nd of 8 to Travado in the grade I Arkle Trophy at Cheltenham on penultimate start (2m, good). YOUNG SNUGFIT beat WONDER MAN (1lb better off) ½l in a 5-runner handicap chase at Newbury (2m 1f, good). Previously, 1½l 2nd of 6 to Storm Alert in a handicap chase over course and distance (good), with BILLY BATHGATE (6lb better off) 28l 5th. UNCLE ERNIE 24l 6th of 12 to Majed in a handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good). BILLY BATHGATE beat General James 8l in a 7-runner handicap chase at Kempton on penultimate start (2m, good). LUCKY AGAIN 5l 2nd of 5 to Iama Zulu in a handicap chase at Newbury on penultimate start (2m 1f, good).
Selection: WONDER MAN

3.00 HAMPTON COURT HANDICAP HURDLE
(Amateurs: £2,892: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

601 /1132/4- EVERALDO 413 (D,G,S) (M Arbib) N Henderson 9-12-7 ... J O'Shaughnessy (7) —
602 41P-8FF SHANNON GLEN 9 (B,D,S) (Mrs E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-11 ... A Wyse (7) —
603 12/4-553 RIVER BOUNTY 14 (D,F,G,S) (A Cohen) J Upson 7-10-7 ... T Byrne (5) —
604 P/53-5 THE DECENT THING 14 (G,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 10-10-1 ... G Hogan (7) 88
605 1214/0 ROSITARY 21 (D,F,S) (P Wickworth) P Wickworth 10-10-0 ... G Cosgrove (7) —
606 120010- BELLEZZA 204F (D,F,G,S) (K Higson) A Moore 6-10-0 ... T McCarthy (7) 98
607 5226-50 SEA BUCK 18 (G,S) (C Buckle) G Balding 7-10-0 ... Raymond White (7) 98
608 22-2151 ULURU 19 (S) (P Morgan) C Nash 5-10-0 ... C Hancock (7) 94
609 14-0 CAPTAIN DOLFORD 32 (S) (R Brisbourne) D Gandolfo 6-10-0 ... Miss P Jones (5) 86
610 U065-0P MOZE TIDY 18 (B,D,G) (M Greenway) R Rowe 8-10-0 ... A Mitchell (7) —
611 5PP/P06 DUKE DE VENDOME 7 (F,G,S) (Mrs S Thomson Jones) Mrs D Haine 10-10-0 G Haine (7) —
612 R0340-0 WILTSHIRE YEOMAN 56 (G,S) (P Hayward) P Hayward 13-10-0 ... Miss S White (7) 80

Long handicap: Rositary 9-12, Bellezza 9-10, Sea Buck 9-10, Uluru 9-8, Captain Dolford 9-5, Moze Tidy 8-11, Duke De Vendome 8-1, Wiltshire Yeoman 7-2

BETTING: 7-2 Uluru, 4-1 The Decent Thing, 5-1 Sea Buck, 7-1 Everaldo, 8-1 Bellezza, 10-1 Captain Dolford, River Bounty, 14-1 Rositary, Shannon Glen, 20-1 others.

1992: VICEROY JESTER 7-10-6 C Bonner-Wells (14-1) P Murphy 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

EVERALDO 16l 4th of 9 to Burgoyne in the grade II West Yorkshire Hurdle at Wetherby (3m 1f, good). RIVER BOUNTY 3l 3rd of 10 to Invasion in a handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, soft). THE DECENT THING 20l 5th of 16 to Dark Honey in a handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good to soft). SEA BUCK 49½l 9th of 22 to Bickerman in a handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110 yd, soft). ULURU beat Mardood 5l in a 16-runner handicap hurdle at Worcester (3m, good). CAPTAIN DOLFORD 11l 10th of 16 to Far Too Loud in a handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot on reappearance (2m 6f, soft). DUKE DE VENDOME 24½l 6th of 7 to Purbian in a handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good).
Selection: EVERALDO

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Jimmy Fitzgerald	6	15	40.0	R Supple	4	14	28.6
Mrs J Pitman	10	40	25.0	M Dwyer	6	22	27.3
J Upson	3	12	25.0	C Maude	4	19	21.1
M Pipe	22	93	23.7	A Maguire	7	36	19.4
N Tinkler	4	17	23.5	G McCourt	7	38	18.4
O Sherwood	11	49	22.4	M A Fitzgerald	4	33	12.1

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

ASCOT
BBC1

12.50: Absalom's Lady won easily on her comeback at Exeter two weeks ago and the form has worked out brilliantly, with fourth-placed Northern Saddler winning since and runner-up Island Jewel running well behind Edimbourg this week. David Elsworth has entered her in the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton and I think she is the outstanding bet of the day. Highbrook will have her supporters following a good second to Land Afar at Sandown, and should ensure a fair price for the selection.

1.20: This is a dress rehearsal for the Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham with last year's festival winner, Shuil Ar Aghaidh, meeting her likely challengers, led by Triple Witching, Sweet Duke and Avro Anson. On a strict line through Sweet Duke, Shuil Ar Aghaidh has the beating of **Triple Witching**, but David Nicholson's runner is improving at such a rate that he can prevail. If the rain stays away Avro Anson could prove a live threat.

1.55: Mister Ed needs further, Fighting Words is unlikely to stay, Latent Talent only wins after a lay-off and Flashthecash is out of form. The front-running Capability Brown is likely to duel for the lead with Young Hustler, who is handicapped up to the hilt, and set this up for Very Very Ordinary, from the out-of-form John Upson yard, and **Windy Ways**, who is just preferred. Provided the rain stays away Nicky Henderson's chaser looks well treated and can spring a surprise.

Richard Evans

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER

12.30 Shujan. 1.00 Coonawara. 1.30 Needwood Poppy. 2.05 Christmas Gorse. 2.35 Chief Celt. 3.05 Dubacilla. 3.35 Chief Rager.

GOING: HEAVY SIS

12.30 TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL PAST PUPILS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,008: 2m) (12 runners)

1 00-0 CUMREWS NEPHEW 17F R Brotherton 5-11-0 ... P Midgley (5) —
2 BULDGY 1315F K Bailey 6-11-0 ... N Williamson —
3 313F GAYLOIRE 14 (G) O Sherwood 4-11-0 ... Mr A Harvey (7) —
4 LYPHANTASTIC 80F C Mann 4-11-0 ... B Powell —
5 PICKLES 110F R Lee 5-11-3 ... L Harvey —
6 000 RAFTERS 10 J Bradley 4-11-0 ... R Farrant (3) 77
7 ROUSITTO 46F R Hollinshead 5-11-0 ... S Wynne (3) —
8 5-P SALINGER 31 M Barraclough 5-11-0 ... V Smith —
9 SHUJAN 57F R Akehurst 4-11-0 ... D Bridgwater —
10 300- TEST MATCH 231 (S) W Clay 6-11-0 ... Diane Clay 88
11 00 TOUGH DEAL 28 P Bradley 5-11-0 ... Mr B Leavy —
12 SYLVAN 58F W Bentley 4-10-9 ... N Bentley (3) —

7-4 Shujan, 3-1 Gayloire, 5-1 Rousitto, 8-1 Lyphantastic, 10-1 Pickles, 16-1 others.

1.00 STEVE LILLEY RACING NOVICES CHASE
(£2,814: 2m) (5)

1 11-1 COONAWARA 31 (D,G,S) T Forster 7-11-6 ... B Powell 88
2 -331 COUNTRY LAD 16 (CD,G,S) Mrs S Williams 5-11-6 S McNeill 96
3 0/P- GIPSY RAMBLER 375 (D,S) N Chamberlain 8-11-0 J Supple (5) —
4 0-36 HIGHLAND POACHER 16 (D,S) D McCain 6-11-0 D Gallagher 66
5 PP/0 THE WOODEN HUT 50 (V) Mrs A Price 10-11-0 Mr M Jackson —

8-13 Coonawara, 13-8 Country Lad, 12-1 Highland Poacher, 33-1 others.

1.30 BOB JACOBS MEMORIAL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,113: 3m 110yd) (13)

1 2-32 CRANK SHAFT 29 F Yardley 6-11-10 ... D Gallagher 82
2 2151 SIR PAGEANT 19 (G,S) K Bridgwater 4-11-8 ... D Bridgwater 80
3 1413 NEEDWOOD POPPY 15 (C,D,G,S) B Morgan 5-11-6 L Harvey 97
4 5-11 GORT 9 (D,G,S) Miss K Allison 5-11-3 ... J Leech 88
5 6003 FAUGHAN LODGE 68 W Clay 6-11-1 ... Diane Clay 93
6 2-36 PLAYPEN 9 (D,F,S) R Frost 9-10-11 ... J Frost 89
7 00-0 MORSHOT 21 C Brooks 6-10-7 ... S McNeill 82
8 6-30 LAUGHING GAS 15 J Upson 4-10-7 ... J James (7) 83
9 634 VERY LITTLE 15 R Alner 5-10-5 ... W McFarland 80
10 02-5 LANSDOWNE 9 G Ham 5-10-3 ... B Powell 83
11 4-06 WHO SIR 31 J J O'Neill 7-10-1 ... N Williamson 81
12 -434 SUASANAN SIOSANA 38 J Upson 8-10-0 ... D Winter (7) 78
13 0-52 MANWELL 11 B Temple 6-10-0 ... D Bentley (5) 81

4-1 Gort, 5-1 Needwood Poppy, 6-1 Morshot, 7-1 Sir Pageant, 8-1 Crank Shaft, Laughing Gas, Who Sir, 10-1 Very Little, 16-1 others.

2.05 MANNY BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,126: 3m 2f) (10)

1 3-PF CHALIE RICHARDS 9 D McCain 6-11-10 ... Mr D McCain (5) 98
2 -P05 CONCERT PAPER 14 (G,S) R O'Leary 9-11-8 ... K Davies (7) 90
3 4-F2 SQUIRES PRIVILEGE 22 J J O'Neill 5-11-7 ... N Williamson 92
4 0602 SILVER AGE 12 (G) J Bradley 7-10-13 ... L Harvey 90
5 00/P NINE BROTHERS 16 C Beever 9-10-9 ... Mr K Green —
6 25P0 DOROBO 16 (B) T Forster 5-10-9 ... R Farrant (3) —
7 4P-0 UFANO 19 T Forster 7-10-8 ... B Powell 90
8 /P-3 CHRISTMAS GORSE 16 N Gaselee 7-10-6 ... J Frost 88
9 PP5 SPARTAN FLAPJACK 8 D Bassett 7-10-4 Mr Richard White (7) —
10 4/04 THE POD'S REVENGE 30 (S) E Alston 8-10-4 ... M Moloney —

7-4 Christmas Gorse, 11-4 Silver Age, 4-1 Squires Privilege, 6-1 Ufano, 14-1 Concert Paper, 16-1 others.

2.35 QUEENSWAY CHINA CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,866: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)

1 1/0- NEEDWOOD MUPPET 406 (C,D,G) B Morgan 6-11-10 L Harvey —
2 010- DOOLAR 224 (CD,F,G,S) P Dalton 6-11-10 ... NON-RUNNER —
3 -500 ANDERMATT 42 (C,D,S) J Mackie 6-11-8 ... N Williamson 95
4 5/04 STAR PLAYER 7 (CD,S) R Baker 7-11-7 ... N Mann 87
5 41-P CHIEF CELT 57 (D,G,S) J King 7-11-0 ... B Powell 97
6 F64U CHIEF RAIDER 29 (D,G) J Wade 5-10-13 ... D Bentley (5) 88
7 00-1 BICKERMAN 18 (C,D,F,G,S) J Spearing 10-10-9 ... Miss T Spearing (7) 95
8 0650 CELTIC BREEZE 19 (V,G,S) M Naughton 10-10-9 ... A Dobbin 98
9 0300 WAKE UP 7 (F,G,S) R O'Leary 6-10-2 ... K Davies (7) 88
10 P-00 FIRST CRACK 49 (F,G,S) F Jordan 8-10-1 ... D Bridgwater 97
11 -465 LASTING MEMORY 39 (F,G,S) R Frost 7-10-0 ... J Frost 96

3-1 Bickerman, 5-1 Celtic Breeze, 6-1 Andermatt, 7-1 Chief Celt, 8-1 Star Player, 10-1 Wake Up, 12-1 others.

3.05 HEATHYARDS ENGINEERING HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,339: 2m 7f) (5)

1 241- GAY RUFFIAN 201 (C,G,S) M Pipe 7-12-0 ... J Lower 91
2 1-23 DUBACILLA 21 (C,G,S) H Cole 7-11-7 ... D Gallagher 88
3 33-1 GRANGE BRAKE 86 (B,C,F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-1 ... D Bridgwater 93
4 124- MR SETASIDE 301 (C,S) J Mackie 8-10-6 ... B Powell 87
5 -143 ZAMIL 7 (C,G,S) K Burke 8-10-1 ... N Williamson 98

2-1 Gay Ruffian, 9-4 Dubacilla, 11-4 Grange Brake, 6-1 Mr Setaside, 10-1 Zamil.

3.35 LEVY BOARD STAKES NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£2,124: 2m) (16)

1 1 RED PARADE 10 (D,S) D Barons 5-11-9 ... R Davis (3) —
2 BETTER BYTHE GLASS N Twiston-Davies 4-11-2 Mr M Rimell (7) —
3 CHIEF RAGER N Twiston-Davies 4-11-2 ... Mr S Joynes (7) —
4 0 FINWAG 10 J Smith 6-11-2 ... S Wynne (3) —
5 00 GAYTON RUN 30 G Barnett 4-11-2 ... A Procter (5) —
6 0- GUSHKA 205 Mrs M McCourt 6-11-2 ... D Meade (7) —
7 KEEP POPPING S Knight 5-11-2 ... D Salter (5) —
8 R KING CREOLE 44 J Berry 4-11-2 ... S Haworth (7) —
9 LEENEY J Bosley 4-11-2 ... Mrs S Bosley —
10 5 NUNS CONE 30 J Bradley 5-11-2 ... R Farrant (3) —
11 0 SOUNDS GOLDEN 7 M Avison 5-11-2 ... A Thornton (3) —
12 0 THE PIPE FITTER 35 (BF) J J O'Neill 5-11-2 ... R McGrath (7) —
13 THERMAL WARRIOR J Old 5-11-2 ... Pat Thompson (7) —
14 00- CELTIC EMERALD 240 R Eckley 5-10-11 ... P McLoughlin (7) —
15 LANDSKER PRYDE M Pipe 4-10-11 ... T Dascombe (3) —
16 LLANTHONY ABBEY P Nicholls 5-10-11 ... R Colles (7) —

9-4 Red Parade, 3-1 Landsker Pryde, 5-1 Better Bythe Glass, 6-1 Chief Rager, 10-1 Thermal Warrior, 14-1 King Creole, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Brooks, 10 winners from 30 runners, 33.3%; M Pipe, 38 from 115, 33.0%; T Forster, 10 from 34, 29.4%; O Sherwood, 13 from 50, 26.0%; P Dalton, 5 from 20, 25.0%.

JOCKEYS: S McNeill, 8 winners from 33 rides, 24.2%; N Mann, 8 from 40, 20.0%; L Harvey, 6 from 30, 20.0%; N Williamson, 18 from 94, 19.1%; W McFarland, 3 from 18, 16.7%; B Powell, 5 from 37, 13.5%.

NOTTINGHAM

THUNDERER

12.45 Lyford Cay. 1.15 Fine Thyne. 1.45 Postman's Path. 2.15 Andrew's First. 2.45 Thumbs Up. 3.15 Couture Stockings.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT, SOFT IN PLACES SIS

12.45 TOLLERTON JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(3-Y-O: £2,183: 2m) (21 runners)

1 51 ATHERTON GREEN 17 (G) (D) J Glover 11-5 ... T Reed
2 1 GIORDANO 9 (S) (D) P Evans 11-5 ... Gary Lyons
3 ALBERSTAN 25F R Marvin 10-12 ... W Worthington
4 DYAB 58F C Williams 10-12 ... A Carroll
5 FINE SIR T Thomson Jones 10-12 ... S Smith Eccles
6 GREEN'S FAIR 80F G Ham 10-12 ... S Mackey
7 GYMCRAK TIGER 47F G Holmes 10-12 ... R Marley
8 HEART OF SPAIN 53F P Bevan 10-12 ... T Wall
9 00 JASPER ONE 23 R Woodhouse 10-12 ... R Garritty
10 KADASTROF 82F R Dickin 10-12 ... W Humphreys
11 LYFORD CAY 91F (B) C Egerton 10-12 ... J Osborne
12 MR CUBE 35F J Bradley 10-12 ... D Matthews (5)
13 3640 MUSICAL PHONE 23 C Popham 10-12 ... R Greene
14 RED LEADER 61F G Charles-Jones 10-12 ... D Meade (7)
15 SOLO CHARTER 78F J Mullins 10-12 ... S Earle
16 STRICTLY PERSONAL 252F M Wilkinson 10-12 ... W McFarland
17 TANGO IN PARIS 186F Mrs E Moscrop 10-12 ... L O'Hara
18 F ANUSHA 18 R Rowe 10-7 ... G Bradley
19 033 GUNNER SUE 31 M Scudamore 10-7 ... R Bellamy
20 206 MISTROY 17 M Hammond 10-7 ... C Grant
21 3F SYLVAN STARLIGHT 9 J Bradley 10-7 ... Guy Lewis (7)

3-1 Giordano, 6-1 Atherton Green, 7-1 Mistroy, 10-1 Anusha, Fine Sir, Lyford Cay, 12-1 Mr Cube, 14-1 others

1.15 PLUMTREE NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,344: 2m) (19)

1 0 BIG ARTHUR 30 D Nicholson 4-10-12 ... W Marston
2 /0 BLAYNEYS PRIVILEGE 18 R Woodhouse 6-10-12 ... R Garritty
3 4 BROAD STEANE 22 S Mellor 4-10-12 ... S Earle
4 0- CELTIC LAIRD 338 Mrs J Pitman 5-10-12 ... I Lawrence
5 0-05 COZZI 15 J Bradley 5-10-12 ... Guy Lewis (7)
6 4-F0 DISTINCTIVE 50 M Wilkinson 4-10-12 ... P Ward (7)
7 320- FALCONBRIDGE BAY 242 N Henderson 6-10-12 ... J Osborne
8 1-F FINE THYNE 31 (F) G Harwood 4-10-12 ... M Perrett
9 F34- GO UNIVERSAL 252 M Bradstock 5-10-12 ... C Grant
10 2-2P KELLING 15 (S) P Nicholls 6-10-12 ... G Bradley
11 MANDYS LAD N Twiston-Davies 4-10-12 ... W Humphreys
12 05-0 OUR ARNOLD 49 J Pilkington 6-10-12 ... P Maddock (7)
13 02-F PRINCE OF PREY 63 T Thomson Jones 5-10-12 S Smith Eccles
14 4- QUARRY HOUSE 266 D Chappell 5-10-12 ... J Railton
15 PP ROCKY TYRONE 44 D McCain 6-10-12 ... D Walsh (5)
16 06-P STRATHBOGIE MIST 8 J Parkes 5-10-12 ... N Smith
17 0- ANNIE KELLY 312 J Wharton 5-10-7 ... B Dalton
18 0 ANOTHER TRYP 28 A Jarvis 5-10-7 ... G Upton
19 0-3 SCRABBLE 40 Mrs S Smith 4-10-7 ... Richard Guest

9-4 Fine Thyne, 6-1 Kelling, 8-1 Big Arthur, Mandys Lad, 10-1 Celtic Laird, Falconbridge Bay, 12-1 others.

1.45 STAN MELLOR HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,176: 3m 3f 110yd) (10)

1 4-23 SUNLEY BAY 14 (B,G,S) P Nicholls 7-11-10 ... G Bradley
2 U3-6 DUBIOUS JAKE 17 (F,S) R Woodhouse 10-11-7 ... R Garritty
3 4-12 POSTMAN'S PATH 14 (BF,G,S) T Forster 7-11-7 ... J Osborne
4 5-46 SADDLER'S CHOICE 16 (B,G,S) J Edwards 8-11-4 ... C Grant
5 4314 ARD T'MATCH 18 (V,C,G,S) A Forbes 8-11-1 ... Gary Lyons
6 F44P TRUSTY FRIEND 32 (G,S) C Popham 11-11-0 ... R Greene
7 P420 LITTLE GENERAL 16 (CD,F) R Rowe 10-10-13 ... Peter Hobbs
8 43-5 THE TARTAN SPARTAN 35 (F) M Wilkinson 9-10-8 ... S Earle
9 U530 JIMMY O'DEA 18 (V,F) T Bill 6-10-6 ... T Eley (5)
10 -585 WOODLANDS GENHIRE 14 (V,F) P Pritchard 8-10-6 R Davis (3)

9-4 Postman's Path, 7-2 Sunley Bay, 5-1 Ard T'Match, 8-1 Dubious Jake, Saddler's Choice, 10-1 Little General, Woodlands Genhire, 16-1 others.

2.15 MAGUIRE AND BATTY NOVICES CHASE
(£2,547: 3m 110yd) (10)

1 05-1 CROFT MILL 53 (G,S) Miss H Knight 7-11-7 ... J Osborne
2 -12F LUSTY LIGHT 36 (BF,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-7 ... I Lawrence
3 4-04 ANDREW'S FIRST 10 (BF,F,G,S) M Wilkinson 6-11-2 ... S Earle
4 0/23 DARK OAK 14 J Curtis 7-11-2 ... L O'Hara
5 4F-2 HOWARYADOON 19 (F,S) R Rowe 7-11-2 ... C Burnett-Wells (5)
6 3/14 RAMPOLDI 14 (BF,G,S) P Nicholls 6-11-2 ... G Bradley
7 0/F RIDAKA 83 J Mackie 6-11-2 ... T Eley (5)
8 40-6 ROMANY SPLIT 18 D Nicholson 8-11-2 ... W Marston
9 6346 SUPPOSIN 37 Mrs S Smith 6-11-0 ... Richard Guest
10 0F43 KEV'S LASS 9 (B) F Murphy 5-10-9 ... P Murphy (7)

5-2 Croft Mill, 3-1 Andrew's First, 7-2 Howaryadoon, 7-1 Lusty Light, 10-1 Rampoldi, 12-1 Dark Oak, 16-1 Ridaka, Romany Split, 20-1 Kev's Lass, Supposin.

2.45 COLWICK INTERMEDIATE CHASE
(£2,679: 2m) (5)

1 4232 FRED SPLENDID 11 (D,S) R Hodges 10-11-10 ... W Irvine
2 P-31 SHU FLY 12 (D,F,G) C Broad 9-11-10 ... Jacqui Oliver
3 -223 BOSSBURG 12 (D,S) D McCain 6-11-1 ... G Bradley
4 0F/ SANDY-BRANDY 704 F Murphy 8-11-0 ... P Murphy (7)
5 11-2 THUMBS UP 50 (BF,F,S) N Henderson 7-11-0 ... J Osborne

6-4 Thumbs Up, 7-4 Shu Fly, 9-2 Fred Splendid, 8-1 Bossburg, 25-1 Sandy-Brandy

3.15 CLIFTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,303: 2m 5f 110yd) (11)

1 1-20 WINGS OF FREEDOM 19 (V,D,F) J Jenkins 5-11-10 . D Fortt (3)
2 3045 ELEGANT KING 8 (G,S) A James 4-11-6 ... G McGrath (5)
3 F-64 IMA DELIGHT 19 (S) Mrs P Sly 8-11-2 ... Lorna Brand (7)
4 4041 MASTER BOSTON 18 (S) R Woodhouse 5-11-1 ... J Driscoll (3)
5 -035 COUTURE STOCKINGS 18 (F,G) J Mackie 9-11-0 ... T Eley
6 0UR- WICKET 211 (G,S) M Wilkinson 8-10-12 ... P Ward (5)
7 21P- JARRWAH 249 (B) J Spearing 5-10-11 ... V Slattery
8 -054 REVE EN ROSE 28 (B,F,G) M McMillan 7-10-6 ... M Hourigan
9 /05U DIRECTORS' CHOICE 35 (F,G) T Mills 8-10-6 ... A Dicken
10 5006 COXANN 15 (G,S) J McConnochie 7-10-0 ... E Tolhurst (7)
11 0-04 MALVERN MADAM 35 Mrs S Smith 6-10-0 ... R Wilkinson (5)

7-2 Master Boston, 9-2 Couture Stockings, 7-1 Elegant King, Wings Of Freedom, 8-1 Ima Delight, 10-1 Jarrwah, Reve En Rose, 16-1 Wicket, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Egerton, 4 winners from 9 runners, 44.4%; J Spearing, 3 from 9, 33.3%; J Glover, 4 from 13, 30.8%; N Henderson, 8 from 28, 28.6%; Miss H Knight, 5 from 20, 25.0%; T Forster, 5 from 22, 22.7%.

JOCKEYS: Richard Guest, 3 from 12, 25.0%; J Osborne, 10 from 46, 21.7%; R Garritty, 4 from 21, 19.0%; S Smith Eccles, 6 from 35, 17.1%; J Railton, 4 from 28, 14.3%; C Grant, 3 from 22, 13.6%.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.40 Bold Alex. 1.10 Akabusi. 1.40 African Chimes. 2.10 Ragtime Song. 2.40 Truben. 3.10 Sir Norman Holt.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.40 WITCH OF ENDOR CLAIMING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,579: 5f) (10 runners)

1 4122 BOLD ALEX 19 (BF,G,S) S Norton 9-2 ... O Pears (3) 3
2 0100 PHONEAHOLIC 16 (B,C,G) B Meehan 8-12 ... B Rouse 1
3 0035 WINDOW DISPLAY 10 (D,S) Mrs N Macauley 8-10 Dale Gibson 9
4 0412 RED GRIT 28 (B,D,G) M Dods 8-5 ... S Webster 2
5 5501 RISKIE THINGS 10 (V,CD,F,G) J Moore 8-5 ... N Adams 7
6 6000 NAPOLEON STAR 26 M Saunders 8-4 ... A Mackay 6
7 5000 THORNY BISHOP 10 (V) J Bridger 8-4 ... T Williams 8
8 4800 MUTINIQUE 21 J Long 8-1 ... D Wright (5) 10
9 0405 CHINA ROBIN 40 (B) P Evans 7-11 ... S Sanders (5) 5
10 6500 MACE EL REEM 10 P Howling 7-11 ... D Biggs 4

5-2 Bold Alex, 3-1 Red Grit, 7-2 Riskie Things, 6-1 Phoneaholic, 10-1 Window Display, 16-1 others.

1.10 LYDIA MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-0: £3,553: 7f) (9)

1 6 AKABUSI 16 Lord Huntingdon 9-0 ... J Williams 3
2 4053 CHARLIE CHARLIE 40 R Ingram 9-0 ... B Russell (5) 1
3 CHARLIEEATSBAILEYS B McMath 9-0 ... A Clark 8
4 00 MILOS 78 T Naughton 9-0 ... Paul Eddery 5
5 PAPAGOS (E) S Dow 9-0 ... A Martinez (7) 2
6 05 SHARP SPRING 135 J White 9-0 ... Dale Gibson 4
7 0 SLOPES 21 T Naughton 9-0 ... B Rouse 9
8 65 CADENABBIA 81 C C Elsey 8-9 ... J Quinn 7
9 LA PETITE FUSEE R O'Sullivan 8-9 ... D Biggs 6

11-4 Charlie Charlie, 4-1 Cadenabbia, 5-1 Akabusi, 7-1 Sharp Spring, 8-1 Slopes, 10-1 Papagos, 12-1 Charlieeatsbaileys, 16-1 others.

1.40 NORTHERN RACING SERVICES HANDICAP
(£4,963: 6f) (14)

1 5005 ROCKY WATERS 21 (C,D,F,G) G L Moore 4-10-0 ... B Rouse 3
2 1036 CRECHE 21 (B,C,D,G) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-13 E Husband (7) 14
3 400- NASHAAT 16J (B,D,F) N Walker 5-9-11 ... S Dawson 9
4 256/ FIGHTING TEMERAIRE 218 C Wall 4-9-7 ... M Tebbutt 10
5 0014 DEBSY DO 25 (D,BF,F,G) S Norton 4-9-7 ... O Pears (3) 11
6 4006 INVOCATION 114 (C,G) A Moore 6-9-7 ... N Adams 8
7 6000 SO RHYTHMICAL 21 (D,F,G,S) G Eden 9-9-6 ... G Bardwell 7
8 8200 LITTLE SABOTEUR 99 (C,G,S) P Makin 4-9-5 ... T Sprake 6
9 6511 PATSY GRIMES 3 (B,C,D,G,S) M Muggeridge 3-9-5 (7ex) ... Mark Denaro (7) 4
10 1304 EDUCATED PET 3 (CD,F,G,S) P Evans 4-9-4 . S Sanders (5) 13
11 0131 PHARAOH'S DANCER 21 (CD,G,S) M McCormack 6-9-4 ... D Gibbs (7) 12
12 2532 AFRICAN CHIMES 16 (CD,F,G) W Muir 6-9-4 ... Paul Eddery 1
13 0004 SAMSOLOM 21 (C,D,F,G) P Howling 5-9-3 ... J Quinn 5
14 5000 ASSIGNMENT 87 (CD,F,G) J Ffitch-Heyes 7-9-1 ... T Williams 2

5-2 Pharaoh's Dancer, 5-1 African Chimes, 6-1 Creche, 7-1 So Rhythmical, 8-1 Educated Pet, 12-1 Nashaat, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Harris, 3 winners from 12 runners, 25.0%; J Harris, 5 from 24, 20.8%; Lord Huntingdon, 15 from 75, 20.0%; M Johnston, 18 from 91, 19.8%; M Muggeridge, 5 from 26, 19.2%; R O'Sullivan, 29 from 154, 18.8%

JOCKEYS: J Williams, 50 winners from 350 rides, 14.3%; B Russell, 7 from 54, 13.0%; L Carter, 3 from 24, 12.5%; B Rouse, 16 from 135, 11.9%; D Biggs, 31 from 279, 11.1%. Only qualifiers.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 12.40 China Robin 1.40 Nashaat. 2.10 Dock Of The Bay. 3.10 Nigel's Lucky Girl

2.10 ATROPOS HANDICAP
(Amateurs: £2,758: 2m) (14)

1 5200 ALQAIRAWAAN 106 (BF) G Harwood 4-11-7 Miss A Harwood 9
2 4/10 NORSTOCK 28J (CD,G) J White 6-11-2 ... R Lawther (5) 6
3 354- RUN HIGH 541 (F,G) P Mitchell 10-11-2 ... R Teal (3) 8
4 0000 DANCING YEARS 38 (E) G L Moore 4-10-13 ... J Keller (7) 5
5 -680 COSMIC DANCER 22J (B,CD,F) S Woods 6-10-13 ... Miss L Hide (5) 11
6 2004 RAGTIME SONG 16 (CD,F,G) A Moore 4-10-8 Miss J Winter (3) 1
7 200 SHOPTILLYOUDROP 31J (E) G L Moore 3-10-6 Mrs J Moore (7) 4
8 00-0 KALAMOSS 23J N Mitchell 4-10-6 ... Miss S Mitchell (5) 2
9 0050 GREEN'S SEABO 31J (C,B) J Harris 5-10-6 ... M Mannish (7) 7
10 00/0 BAYLORD PRINCE 18 R Hoad 5-10-5 ... Miss J Ewer (7) 12
11 4-00 EDDIE WALSHE 16 J Long 8-10-5 ... Miss S Watkins (7) 10
12 4630 KOVALEVSKIA 25 (C,D,F,G,S) D Wilson 8-10-4 Miss E Bronson 3
13 4060 BURNING COST 16 R Peacock 3-10-1 ... Mrs C Peacock (7) 13
14 0050 DOCK OF THE BAY 4 (V) P McBride 3-9-13 .. V Lukaniuk (7) 14

4-1 Norstock, 5-1 Cosmic Dancer, 6-1 Alqairawaan, 8-1 Kovalevskia, Ragtime Song, 12-1 Kalamoss, Shoptillyoudrop, 14-1 Green's Seabo, 16-1 others.

2.40 HOTSPUR LIMITED STAKES
(£2,467: 1m 4f) (8)

1 4162 DASHING FELLOW 40 (CD,BF,F,G) Mrs L Piggott 5-9-2 J Quinn 1
2 5-00 LAKE DOMINION 21 P Harris 4-9-2 ... J O'Dwyer (7) 3
3 58-6 LUCKNAM STYLE 345 (F) Mrs B Waring 5-9-2 ... G Bardwell 8
4 1260 PREMIER DANCE 35 (C,D,F,G) D Haydn Jones 6-9-2 ... D Wright (5) 2
5 0441 ALLMOSA 16 (C,D,F,G) T Naughton 4-8-11 ... A Garth (5) 4
6 2004 TRUBEN 44 (D,F,G) M Johnston 4-8-11 ... T Williams 5
7 6050 CANDARELA 19 P Howling 3-8-6 ... Debbie Biggs (7) 7
8 0080 GREY WATCH 35 P Howling 3-8-6 ... D Biggs 6

7-4 Dashing Fellow, 11-4 Truben, 3-1 Allmosa, 10-1 Premier Dance, 14-1 others.

3.10 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (£3,184: 7f) (16)

1 3022 WAVE HILL 10 (B,F,G) P Hedger 4-10-0 ... B Russell (5) 5
2 1-64 FAEZ 19 (CD,S) J Arnold 3-9-12 ... C Rutter 13
3 0112 SENSE OF PRIORITY 19 (CD,BF,F,G) M H Easterby 4-9-7 ... L Charnock 7
4 /00- SALUTING WALTER 282J (E) P Evans 5-9-7 ... M Fenton (3) 14
5 0031 LETSBEONESTABOUTIT 19 (B,CD,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 7-9-7 ... E Husband (7) 9
6 0-00 YOUNG DUKE 49 (D,F) Mrs S Williams 5-9-6 ... A Clark 10
7 2030 PERSIAN GUSHER 19 (E,CD,G) S Dow 3-9-5 ... Paul Eddery 11
8 0005 NOBBY BARNES 10 (C,G) D Wilson 4-9-4 ... J Williams 8
9 1311 MASTER BEVELED 10 (CD,G) P Evans 3-9-3 .. S Sanders (5) 4
10 5243 NEWINGTON BUTTS 91 R Akehurst 3-9-2 ... L Carter (7) 3
11 0600 ISLAND KNIGHT 10 (D,G) M Ryan 4-8-13 ... P McCabe (5) 2
12 -503 SIR NORMAN HOLT 16 (B,CD,BF,F,G) R O'Sullivan 4-8-11 ... D Biggs 6
13 6003 PONDICHERRY 25 (D,G) S Woods 3-8-10 ... M Tebbutt 1
14 5000 NIGEL'S LUCKY GIRL 16J (B,D,F,G) R Harris 5-8-10 J Quinn 16
15 5644 QUINZII MARTIN 10 (V,CD,G) D Haydn Jones 5-8-8 A Mackay 15
16 3535 LADY ROXANNE 207 Lord Huntingdon 4-8-8 J Wilkinson (7) 12

7-2 Master Beveled, 6-1 Letsbeonestaboutit, Sense Of Priority, 8-1 Sir Norman Holt, Wave Hill, 10-1 Young Duke, 12-1 Nigel's Lucky Girl, 14-1 others.

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RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Market Rasen

Going: soft

12.40 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Raggerty (N Bentley, 11-4 fav); 2, Biran (7-1); 3, Winged Whisper (7-1). 8 ran. 11/4, 8l. G Moore. Tote: £3.40; £1.30, £2.50, £2.60. DF: £5.70. CSF: £19.61. Tricast: £104.48.

1.10 (2m 4f ch) 1, Astings (M Dwyer, 13-8 fav); 2, Midday Show (14-1); 3, Hunting Country (7-1). 6 ran. 12l, 10l. Jimmy Fitzgerald. Tote: £2.30; £1.50, £2.20. DF: £23.30. CSF: £18.03.

1.40 (2m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Roc Color (G Bradley, 9-4); 2, Belfton (4-6 fav); 3, Gymcrak Stardom (6-1). 5 ran. 4l, 12l. C Brooks. Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £1.10. DF: £1.60. CSF: £4.02.

2.10 (3m 1f ch) 1, Matt Reid (M Dwyer, 7-4); 2, Rifle Range (8-4). Young Miner 6-4 fav 3 ran. Dist. J Leigh. Tote: £2.70. DF: £2.50. CSF: £4.56.

2.40 (3m hdle) 1, Ivy House (N Williamson, 12-1); 2, Majority Major (14-1); 3, Henry Vill (11-1). Le Ginno 8-11 fav. 10 ran. NR: Armateur. 2l, 4l. J J O'Neill. Tote: £8.00; £1.20, £2.60, £2.00. DF: £155.40. CSF: £145.84.

3.10 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Gymcrak Sovereign (R Marley, 9-1); 2, Clurican (6-1); 3, Brambleberry (12-1). Seagull Hollow 7-2 fav. 12 ran. 3l, 6l. G Holmes. Tote: £10.30; £3.00, £2.10, £3.20. DF: £42.50. Trio: £169.80. CSF: £60.12. Tricast: £605.41.

Jackpot: £31,832.00 (0.3 winning tickets. Pool of £31,383.75 carried forward to Ascot today). Placepot: £691.60.

Catterick Bridge

Going: good to soft

12.50 (2m ch) 1, Political Tower (A Dobbin, 5-1); 2, Issyin (7-1), 3, Red Indian (10-1). Fnckley 4-7 fav. 7 ran. 6l, 12l. M Barnes. Tote: £5.90; £2.40, £2.20. DF: £9.20. CSF: £34.30.

1.20 (2m hdle) 1, Kenmore-Speed (Richard Guest, 9-4); 2, Col Buckmore (11-8 fav); 3, Scrabo View (10-1). 11 ran. 8l, 7l. Mrs S Smith. Tote: £3.20; £1.20, £1.10, £2.50. DF: £2.90. CSF: £5.91.

1.50 (2m ch) 1, Tresidder (R Garritty, 5-1); 2, Happy Breed (25-1); 3, Boston Rover (5-2). Rocket Launcher 5-4 fav. 6 ran. 3l, 15l. M W Easterby. Tote: £4.50; £1.50, £4.60. DF: £57.50. CSF: £68.17.

2.20 (2m hdle) 1, Greenacres Lad (A Mulholland, 50-1), 2, Rusty Roc (3-1 jt-fav); 3, King's Guest (16-1). What If 3-1 jt-fav. 15 ran. NR: Strong Silver, Tauran Princess. 3l, 3½l. J Eyre. Tote: £10.40; £1.70, £2.80, £5.20. DF: £36.70. CSF: £193.13.

2.50 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Secret Rite (Peter Hobbs, 7-1), 2, Truely Royal (100-30); 3, Moulton Bull (12-1). Gathering Time 3-1 fav. 8 ran. 1¼l, 10l. C Weedon. Tote: £5.20; £2.00, £1.70, £1.90. DF: £4.60. CSF: £27.02. Tricast: £219.87.

3.20 (3m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Noddle (T Reed, 11-2), 2, Make Me Proud (10-1); 3, Jefferby (7-1); 4, If You Say So (10-1). Dawsam 5-1 fav. 16 ran. NR: Paint House. 5l, 1½l. L Lungo. Tote: £7.60; £1.80, £3.80, £2.30, £3.70. DF: £48.30. Trio: £285.70. CSF: £61.35. Tricast: £375.15.

Placepot: £942.90.

Uttoxeter

Going: heavy

12.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Man To Man (A Kondrat, 4-11 fav); 2, Fun Money (8-1); 3, Warfield (14-1). 14 ran. 20l, 20l. F Doumen (Fr). Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £1.70, £1.90. DF: £3.20. CSF: £3.74.

1.00 (2m 5f ch) 1, Mo Ichi Do (T Eley, 14-1); 2, The Laughing Lord (5-2 fav); 3, Piper O'Drummond (11-4). 9 ran. 3½l, ½l. Miss S Wilton. Tote: £13.30; £2.00, £1.20, £1.70. DF: £11.80. Trio: £22.50. CSF: £43.30. Tricast: £101.21.

1.30 (2m hdle) 1, Shared Gold (M Bosley, 10-1); 2, Douslago (4-5 fav). 3, Glossy (20-1). 11 ran. 10l, 20l. J Bosley. Tote: £18.40; £2.70, £1.10, £6.10. DF: £30.00. CSF: £19.08.

2.00 (2m 7f ch) 1, Playful Juliet (Pat Caldwell, 100-1); 2, Martell Boy (6-1); 3, Visaga (100-30). Mr Flanogan 10-11 fav. 7 ran. 8l, 15l. T Caldwell. Tote: £102.40; £8.40, £2.40. DF: £174.40. CSF: £523.30.

2.30 (2m hdle) 1, Heathyards Boy (R Dunwoody, 100-30); 2, Saint Ciel (5-2 fav); 3, Mahong (3-1). 6 ran. 6l, hd. R Hollinshead. Tote: £3.30; £1.60, £1.70. DF: £2.30. CSF: £11.44.

3.00 (2m ch) 1, Trimlough (W Marston, 5-4 fav; Richard Evans's nap); 2, One For The Pot (7-2); 3, Its Nearly Time (11-4). 4 ran. 6l, dist. P Dalton. Tote: £2.30. DF: £2.70. CSF: £5.75.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, Nellegrity (Peter Caldwell, 25-1), 2, Abbot Of Furness (13-2); 3, Stylus (6-4 fav). 8 ran. 1½l, 4l. T Caldwell. Tote: £26.90; £4.00, £1.90, £1.40. DF: £17.80. CSF: £151.54. Tricast: £341.77.

Placepot: £342.10.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Edinburgh, Lingfield Park.
TUESDAY: Hereford, Lingfield Park (AW).
WEDNESDAY: Hexham, Ludlow, Southwell.
THURSDAY: no racing.
FRIDAY: no racing.
SATURDAY: no racing.
(Flat meetings in bold)

Richards fined

MARK Richards was fined £170 by the stewards at Market Rasen yesterday for failing to ride out Yaafoor for fourth place in the selling hurdle.

The Sussex-based rider, who travelled north for the one mount, was surprised at the punishment as there was no prize-money or betting hanging on the placing.

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Unsung heroine of national sports



Taylor, second left, at England football training, still basking in England's victory over New Zealand in the women's cricket World Cup. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Sally Jones meets one of Britain's greatest all-rounders who has had an incredible year

Clare Taylor, a post office driver from Bradford, this week abandoned her workmates at the height of the Christmas rush to fly out for a few days in the sun. In spite of the heavy workload, however, her boss has willingly given her the time off: Taylor, 28, one of Britain's greatest sporting all-rounders and her England teammates are bound for Osasuna to take on the Spanish women's football team in the match that should decide the winner of their European championship group.

Once home she will be training hard with Knowsley, her Premier League team, who take on Huddersfield in the women's FA Cup in January. She will also be starting winter nets with her Wakefield cricket club mates, still basking in the afterglow of England's victory in the women's World Cup this summer.

Taylor, an exuberant, curly-headed woman with a rich chuckle and the refreshing habit of speaking her mind regardless of the consequences, is the only women to win international caps for football and cricket and one of a tiny handful of competitors to play top-class football at Wembley and international cricket at Lord's within three months.

"It's been an incredible year," she said. "Knowsley lost 3-0 to Arsenal in the women's league cup final, but there was a crowd of 20,000 and an amazing atmosphere.

"Then, in August, we reached the World Cup cricket final at Lord's after losing to New Zealand in the group matches. That made us pull out all the stops against the defending champions, Australia. We beat them by 43 runs at Guildford and it gave us a terrific boost for the final against New Zealand. They put us in to bat and we knocked up 195 then got them all out for 128 in 55 overs. I took two wickets and a useful catch, but it couldn't compare with Jeanette Brittin's winning catch. She must have covered 20 yards and took it over her head, still running flat out. It was the best moment of my life. There was a mini-pitch invasion and we must have hugged more complete strangers that day than we had had hot dinners."

A medium-pace bowler, Taylor remains bitter about the fleeting reference to the victory in BBC's *Sports Review of the Year* on Sunday, when the women cricketers were passed over for the team of the year award in favour of the England rugby union side. It was a decision which the women believe had more to do with internal BBC politics than sporting excellence and typified what they see as television's contempt for women's sport in general and female participation in male-dominated sport in particular.

"I couldn't believe it," she said. "The rugby team won only one big match, but we had won the World Cup against all the odds. The BBC only showed a few seconds of the end of the match and didn't even interview us. It's always a problem getting coverage: the Lord's streaker got more footage and column inches than women's cricket's got in the past 20 years and that's a symptom of why we find it hard to get taken seriously. Blokes still ask us stupid questions like 'What protection do you wear?' They wouldn't ask Ian Botham that — they would get a fat lip if they did.

"That's also why sponsorship is also hard to find. We have to pay for everything. For the 1988 World Cup we had to find £900 each for air fares and this time we had a £140 bill for our tracksuits, shirts and uniforms. Even though we won we still haven't got a sponsor, but the Sports Council has now appointed someone to help us with public relations and marketing, which should make a big difference."

Taylor is a public relation man's dream: a witty, articulate geography graduate who is philosophical about her less than challenging job. "I came up against a brick wall when I began job hunting, started at the Post Office as a Christmas casual and I'm still there. I use the heavy sacks and parcels as a form of weight training."

To compensate for her career frustrations, she lives for her sport. Taylor trains for several hours a day, running four miles most nights and working out on the multi-gym in her basement to build the levels of fitness that have made her the England football side's sweeper for the past two years. Ted Copeman, the England team manager, admires her commitment. "She's got a great attitude, extremely buoyant and she reads the game very well. England have already beaten Slovenia and Belgium away and Clare scored the crucial header in that match, which we went on to win 3-0. A lot of men are amazed at her power and speed."

Taylor admits that the physical differences between the sexes make it impossible for men and women to compete on equal terms. "We are not man-haters and we are not trying to beat the men," she said. "We are not as strong or fast in either sport, but we can still be very skilful. Our top batsmen can hit a cover drive like Gower's — it just doesn't get to the boundary as fast. And our football tackles aren't quite as crunching s the men's, but they are still pretty solid with fewer dirty challenges or play-acting than in men's football.

"We're not trying to prove that we are equal or make some sexist point. We just play because we enjoy playing and because these are two great games whatever level you reach."



Taylor, second right, celebrates England's triumph at Lord's. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

SPORT IN BRIEF

Crowd trouble forces Britons off court

THE world grand prix badminton finals were interrupted when a crowd disturbance forced players from the courts in Kuala Lumpur yesterday (Richard Eaton writes). Gill Clark and Joanne Wright, the British pair, were forced to take shelter after bottles and cans were thrown on court. Police appeared to make arrests and the incident delayed play for 15 minutes. The trouble began after Ardy Wiranata, the Olympic silver medal-winner, from Indonesia, waved his racket in anger at a decision given by a local linesman in favour of Rashid Sidek, the Malaysian.

When order was restored, Clark and Wright resumed the final set against Finarsih and Lili Tampi.the top seeded Indonesians. The Britons lost 15-8, 6-15, 15-8. Earlier, Clark reached the mixed doubles final with Nick Ponting with a 15-7, 15-6 win over the Anglo-Danish partnership of Gillian Gowers and Michael Sogaard. They play Thomas Lund and Catrine Bengtsson, the world champions, today.

Parrott's nerve holds

SNOOKER: John Parrott made a timely clearance of 75 to beat Alan McManus 5-3 in the quarter-finals of the European Open in Antwerp yesterday (Phil Yates writes). Parrott, winner of the tournament in 1989 and 1990, appeared virtually certain to secure a semi-final against Stephen Hendry when he established a commanding 4-0 mid-session interval advantage.

McManus, whose safety play, long potting and positional touch had been unusually suspect in the first half, then proved what a tenacious competitor he is by recovering to trail only 4-3. However, in the next frame he missed a black off its spot and Parrott capitalised.

Dangerfield reward

CYCLING: Stuart Dangerfield's 26 wins in time-trials from 37 starts this year, including the National hill climb title and the Welsh 25-mile championship, was rewarded yesterday with a chance to compete in next year's Commonwealth Games in Canada. The rider from Willenhall in Staffordshire has gained a place on Britain's national squad and has been told to prepare for either the 4,000 metres individual track pursuit, the discipline in which he gained a bronze this year, or the 100 kilometres road team time-trial. Selection for both events is unlikely; there is only 48 hours between the two.

Holt aims for final

TABLE TENNIS: Andrea Holt, the national champion, whose three victories against France on Tuesday made virtually certain that England would reach the European League final for the first time, will today be helping the British League champions, BFL Grove, in their attempt to reach the final of the European Cup. Holt lines up alongside Lisa Lomas, the European silver medal-winner, and the Russian, Elena Timina, for the Market Drayton side's semi-final against Steinhagen, the German club, who are pursuing a third successive title and have home advantage.

Gillingham challenge

SWIMMING: Nick Gillingham, the world short-course champion at 200 metres breaststroke, is to meet Karoly Guttler, one of his biggest rivals and the world record-holder at 100 metres breaststroke, in Budapest on Monday. The long course race is one of four head-to-head races for men and women with prize-money of $5,000 at stake. The winner of each race will receive $3,500 and the loser $1,500. Gillingham beat Guttler to win a record third successive European title at 200 metres in August. Guttler did not attend the recent world short-course championships.

McKenzie looks ahead

BOXING: Duke McKenzie is treating the challenge for the vacant British featherweight crown tonight as the launch pad towards world title No 4. McKenzie, 30, takes on the Geordie, John Davison, 35, in Manchester, with his gaze fixed on meeting World Boxing Organisation (WBO) champion, Steve Robinson, of Cardiff. "I'm not treating this as a British title contest. It's more than that because Davison is a world-class fighter," said McKenzie, the only domestic boxer to win world titles at three different weights — IBF flyweight and WBO bantam and super-bantam.

Marshall misses out

SQUASH: Peter Marshall and Simon Parke, of England, failed in their respective attempts to reach the final of the Mahindra international challenge in Bombay yesterday. However, Marshall, the England No 1, went close, leading Brett Martin, the top seed, by two games before losing 11-15, 12-15, 15-8, 15-13, 15-5. Parke took the attack to Sami Elopuro, of Finland, before going down 15-9, 6-15, 15-11, 15-9, in 69 minutes. Apart from the second game, which he won brilliantly with a series of winners, Parke made too many errors as he tried to force the pace.

For the record

BADMINTON

KUALA LUMPUR: World Grand Prix finals: Men's singles, Group A: First round: J Suprianto (Indo) bt F Permadi (Indonesia) 9-15, 15-10, 15-9; J Olsson (Swe) bt Lee Mie Chow (Taiwan) 15-11 15-12. Second round: Suprianto bt Olsson 15-10, 15-2. Permadi bt Lee Mie Chow (Taiwan) 15-13, 15-3. Group B: First round: A Budi Kusuma (Indo) bt Ong Ewe Hock (Malay) 15-5, 15-10; M Mainaky (Indo) bt Kim Hak Kyun (S Korea) 17-14, 15-9. Second round: Hock bt Mainaky 15-11, 4-15 15-12; Budi Kusuma bt Kim Hak Kyun 15-9, 15-6. Group C: First round: H Susanto (Indo) bt P Knowles (Eng) 15-11, 15-2: H Arbi (Indo) bt S Kukasemkij (Thai) 15-12, 15-6. Second round: Kukasemkij bt Knowles 15-5, 15-8; Arbi bt Susanto 15-12, 15-2. Group D: First round: R Sidek (Malay) bt Lin Wei Chen (Taiwan) 15-7, 15-8; A Wiranata (Indo) bt P Espersen (Den) 15-6, 15-12. Second round: Sidek bt Wiranata 11-15, 15-0, 15-8; Espersen bt Lin Wei Chen 15-11, 12-15, 15-10. Women's singles Group A: First round: S Jaroensiri (Thai) bt Chen Chia Fong (Malay) 11-7, 11-1. Second round: S Susanti (Indo) bt S Jaroensiri (Thai) 11-5, 11-1. Group B: First round: M Timur (Indo) bt Chan Yin Yap (Hong Kong) 11-12, 11-15. Second round: H Jingna (China) bt Timur 11-7, 11-8. Group C: First round: Y Sanoso (Indo) bt Lee Yeng Cheng (Malay) 11-1 11-5. Second round: Ye Zhaoying (China) bt Y Santoso (Indo) 5-11, 11-7, 11-2. Group D: First round: Z Abdullah (Sing) bt C Magnusson (Swe) 11-5, 11-4. Second round: Bang Soo Hyun (S Kor) bt Magnusson 11-2, 11-0.

BIATHLON

POKLJUKA, Slovenia, World Cup: Men: 20km: 1, P Bailly-Salins (Fr) 59min 51.4sec (0 shots missed); 2, S Chepikov (Russ) 54:02.5 (1); 3, V Kirienko (Russ) 54:43.4 (2); 4, R Gros (Ger) 54:48.1 (0); 5, S Fische (Ger) 54:54.5 (1); 6, S Hoos (Ger) 55:08.9 (0); 7, P Sendel (Ger) 55:13.4 (1); 8, M Morgenstern (Ger) 55:22.3 (0); 9, V Maligurov (Belo) 55:27.5 (2); 10, V Pesarev (Russ) 55:30.4 (1). Overall (after 3 rnds): 1, Gros 69pts; 2, Kirienko 62; 3, Bailly-Salins, 60. Women: 15km: 1, A Briand (Fr) 58min 27.4sec (2 shots missed); 2, N Snitina (Russia) 57:02.5 (2); 3, N Santer (It) 57:38.7 (3); 4, H Fossen (Nor) 57:44.3 (2); 5, S Paremygina (Bul) 57:48.9 (2); 6, N Talanova (Russ) 58:00.2 (2); 7, S Pankratova (Russ) 58:01.5 (2); 8, N Eskova (Ukr) 58:12.3 (1); 9, U Disl (Ger) 58:22.7 (3); 10, J Pelcova (Cz) 58:39.8 (2). Overall (after 3rd): 1, Santer, 84pts; 2, S Greiner-Petter (Ger) 58; 3, Fossen, 57.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New York 108 LA Lakers 85; Indiana 99 Atlanta 81; New Jersey 111 Charlotte 95; Detroit 97 Washington 95; Miami 90 Cleveland 89. San Antonio 103 Dallas 89.

MEN'S EUROPEAN CLUBS' CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final series: Group A: Guildford 72 (Brown 20) Real Madrid 81; Bayer Leverkusen 60 Benetton Treviso (It) 70. Group B: Joventut Badalona (Sp) 76 Benfica 79 (OT); Panathinaikos Athens 86 Pau-Orthez (Fr) 72; Efes Pilsen Istanbul 69 Cibona Zagreb (Cro) 73 (OT); Buckler Bologna 71 Clear Cantu (It) 60.

BOWLS

TOUR MATCHES: Somerset County IBA 65 EIBA 69; Victoria Street 62 EIBA 57.

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Mexico 0 Brazil 1.

SPANISH SUPERCUP: Second leg: Barcelona 1 Real Madrid 1 (agg: 2-4)

ITALIAN CUP: Third round, second leg: AS Roma 2, Sampdoria 1 (aet; agg 3-3; Sampdoria win 8-6 on pens).

CAWOODS CO, ANTRIM SHIELD: Quarter-finals: Newry 0 Bangor 2.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Manchester City 1 Port Vale 1. Postponed: Burnley v Mansfield.

GOLF

DUBAI: D J Russell Hippo Pro-Am: Leading third-round scores: 211: R Chapman 70, 73, 68. 215: C Mason 73, 72, 70. 217: R McFarlane 70, 73, 74. 218: C Elliott 76, 71, 71. 221: R Boxall 72, 75, 74. 222: D J Russell 69, 76, 77; D Williams 75, 73, 74.

HOCKEY

LILLE, France: European indoor qualifying tournament: England v Belorus, who England go through; Sweden 5, Switzerland 5; France 8, Lithuania 1; England 8, Czechoslovakia 3.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Philadelphia 3 Quebec 2; Pittsburgh 2 Buffalo 1.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Great Britain 1 Denmark 4 (at Humberside).

MOSCOW: Izvestia Cup: Russia B 5 France 2; United States 6 Finland 2; Russia A 2 Norway 2; Sweden 5 Belorus 2; Sweden 2, Canada 0.

SKIING

PIANCAVALLO, Italy: Freestyle World Cup: Aerials: Men: 1, N Fonsline (Can) 233.16pts; 2, C Reeves (Austria) 221.30; 3, E Bergoust (US) 220.57. British: 20, R Cobbing 173.66; 29, D Edwards 150.72; 34, K Harbut 138.05. Women: 1, C Brand (Switz) 171.31; 2, L Tcherjazove (Uzbek) 157.58; 3, K Porter (USA) 156.71. British: 18, J Curry 114.67

SKI JUMPING

COURCHEVEL, France: World Cup: 1, A Goldberger (Austria) 242.1 pts; 2, J Nishikata (Japan) 233.9; 3, J Sakala (Cz Rep) 231.8; 4, N Dessum (Fr) 229.7; 5, J Weissflog (Ger) 229.4; 6, T Okabe (Japan) 227.6; 7, M Kladnik (Slovenia) 222.1; 8, T Ingebrigtsen (Nor) 221.5; 9, Z Krompotz (Pol) 220.6; 10, E Bredesen (Nor) 218.1 STANDINGS: 1, Goldberger 300pts; 2, Weissflog, 290; 3, Bredesen 266; 4, Nishikata 195; 5, Sakala 162; 6, Okabe 160; 7, G Siegmund (Ger) 102; 8, Lasse Ottesen (Nor) 83; 9, H Heracla (Japan) 90; 10, Dessum (France) 82.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: British public schools' championships: Senior singles: Second round: W Blackwell (Eton) bt S Roundell (Harrow) 15-10, 12-15, 15-10; R George (Wellington) bt C Barnsdale 15-8, 15-1; B Hudson (Radley) bt S Varney (Malvern) 15-2, 13-15, 15-8; J Dickie (Haileybury) bt N Hare (Charterhouse) 15-13, 16-14; J Veysey (Radley) bt E Goddard (Malvern) 17-16, 15-8; I Mogford (Malvern) bt G Close-Brooks (Winchester) 15-1, 15-9; D Pardey (Tonbridge) bt V Menon (Cheltenham) 15-0, 15-12; R Sharma (Clifton) bt D Kinder (Wellington) 15-3, 12-15, 17-14.

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE LEAGUE: Leading scorers: First division: 103: R Andrew (Wasps: 2 tries, 9 conversions, 24 penalty goals, 1 dropped goal). 90: J Harris (Leicester: 1t, 5c, 17pg, 6dg). 86: J Callard (Bath: 2t, 14c, 17pg). 84: P Grayson (Northampton: 2t, 7c, 19pg; 1dg). 76: K Bray (Harlequins: 1t, 4c, 21pg). 68: M Tainton (Bristol: 7c, 18pg). 50: S Langford (Orrell: 4c, 14pg). 37: P Burke (London Irish: 2c, 10pg, 1dg). 36: D Johnson (Newcastle Gosforth: 1c, 11pg); 35: T Smith (Gloucester: 4c, 9pg). Second division: 99: J Statter (West Hartlepool: 1t, 15c, 19pg, 2dg). 87: G Gregory (Nottingham: 1t, 2c, 23pg, 2dg). 86: R Lacy (Wakefield: 1t, 9c, 21pg). 70: A Tumingley (Saracens: 2t, 6c, 16pg). 67: P Rutledge (Otley: 2t, 3c, 17pg). 66: M Mapletoft (Rugby: 4t, 5c, 11pg, 1dg); P Turner (Sale: 12c, 13pg, 1dg). 48: S Swindells (Waterloo: 2c, 14pg). 38: A Kerr (Moseley: 4c, 10pg). Third division: 73: M Livesey (Richmond: 1t, 13c, 12pg, 2dg). 56: A Green (Exeter: 1t, 6c, 13pg). 54: A Finnie (Bedford: 6c, 13pg, 1dg). 53: J Grayshon (Morley: 7c, 10pg). 305p. 38: R Angell (Coventry: 7c, 7pg, 1dg). 32: P Roblin (Rosslyn Park: 2t, 5c, 4pg); A Parker (Fylde: 4c, 8pg). 25: M Friday (Blackheath: 5c); D Woodman (Coventry: 5c).

HAILEYBURY SCHOOLS FESTIVAL: Leicester GS 5 Treverton, South Africa 12; FACS, South Africa 54 Sydney GS 3, St Albans, South Africa 40 Geelong, Australia 8 5; Uppington, South Africa 29 Sarcelles, France 7; Gelston A 0, Peterhouse, Zimbabwe 38; Bishop's, South Africa 31 Haileybury 13; Vrede, South Africa 28 Herts Schools 12.

RUGBY LEAGUE

REGAL TROPHY: Third round: Bradford Northern 18 Halifax 8.

SQUASH

BOMBAY: International Challenge: Group A: S Elopuro (Fin) bt P Whitlock (Eng) 15-13, 15-6, 15-13. Elopuro and B Martin (Aus) qualify for semi-finals. Group B: P Marshall (Eng) bt S Parke (Eng) 15-7, 12-15, 15-8, 15-14; C Walker (Eng) bt R Norman (NZ) 15-13, 7-15, 15-10, 10-16, 15-7. Marshall and Parke qualify for semi-finals.

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Foser raises profile with surprise victory

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MARKUS Foser, of Liechtenstein, captured a dramatic victory in the opening downhill event of the World Cup skiing season in Val Gardena, Italy, yesterday. Foser, who is little known outside the principality, clocked 2min 08.90sec to beat Werner Franz, the Austrian, into second place.

By coincidence, the same pair finished in the same order among the lesser competitors of the European Cup circuit in a race on the same course last weekend.

Franz had raced across the Saslonch piste in 2min 09.09sec to put an end to the premature victory celebrations of Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg, the overall World Cup-holder, who looked likely to complete his first downhill win in almost five years by clocking an impressive time of 2:09.21.

Girardelli was eventually left to settle for third place after watching in surprise as Moser also surpassed his performance.

The race replaced the downhill event scheduled for Val-d'Isère, France, last weekend, which was called off because of bad weather. A second downhill race will be held in Val Gardena today.

Poor weather made only one practice session possible for yesterday's race, leaving no real guide to form. However, nobody could have expected so many of the leading competitors to be humbled as the bright sunshine made the course faster the longer the competition went on.

Franz Heinzer, of Switzerland, a winner in Val Gardena twice in the past and World Cup-holder in the discipline, finished back in 58th place, more than three seconds behind Foser. Kjetil-Andre Aamodt, the Norwegian World Cup-leader, was 48th while his closest challenger, Guenther Mader, of Austria, finished level with Heinzer.

Girardelli, five times the overall World Cup-winner, presumed he was the victor and apologised to Patrick Ortlieb, the Austrian Olympic downhill champion, who has never won a World Cup race, for edging him out by 0.08 seconds. The hapless Ortlieb finished in sixth place as Rob Boyd and Darren Thorburn, the Canadian pair, darted in between him and Girardelli. Boyd's fourth place yesterday follows victories in Val Gardena in 1986 and 1987.

Brian Stemmle, his Canadian team colleague, required medical attention for several minutes after landing heavily on his back in a fall.

RESULTS: 1, M Foser (Liech), 2min 08.90sec; 2, W Franz (Austria), 2:09.09; 3, M Girardelli (Lux), 2:09.21; 4, R Boyd (Can), 2:09.28; 5, D Thorburn (Can), 2:09.28; 6, P Ortlieb (Austria), 2:09.29; 7, H Trinkl (Austria), 2:09.71; 8, N Burtin (Fr), 2:09.77; 9, J E Thorsen (Nor), 2:09.90; 10, D Mahrer (Switz), 2:09.95; 11, W Forstinger (It), 2:10.05; 12, C Mullen (Can), 2:10.10 13; L Sauder (Can), 2:10.15; 14, L France (Fr), 2:10.20; 15, S Krauss (Ger), 2:10.25 British: 21, M Bell, 2:10 40.

Sorrell may answer Bournville injury call

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

BOURNVILLE, troubled by injury problems, may call on their coach, Keith Sorrell, to take the field for the postponed Hockey Association Cup fourth-round match against Isca at Birmingham University tomorrow.

Among the injured are John Dalley, Zach Jones and Ben Davies, the goalkeeper, and there is doubt about Nick Conway. Neil Mallett, their main inspiration, is on a business trip abroad and Matthew Sutton, a strong midfield player, is with the England indoor team in France.

Isca, holding fifth position in the second division of the national league, will rely on their tried and trusted hands, Robert and Graham Skinner, with Paul Livesey and Jon Evenett in support.

Earlier at the same venue, Bloxwich, second in the Ernst & Young Midlands League, will oppose Trojans in another postponed fourth-round match. Prominent among the Bloxwich scorers are Nigel Hale, the captain, Martin Oates and Peter Griffin. Trojans, who operate in the first division of the national league, have equally good marksmen — Christopher Wootton, Julian Archer and Mark Tubb.

Stourport are fancied to win the national invitation indoor league to be played today and tomorrow at Cocks Moors Woods leisure centre in Birmingham and which is concluded on January 8 and 9 at Crystal Palace.

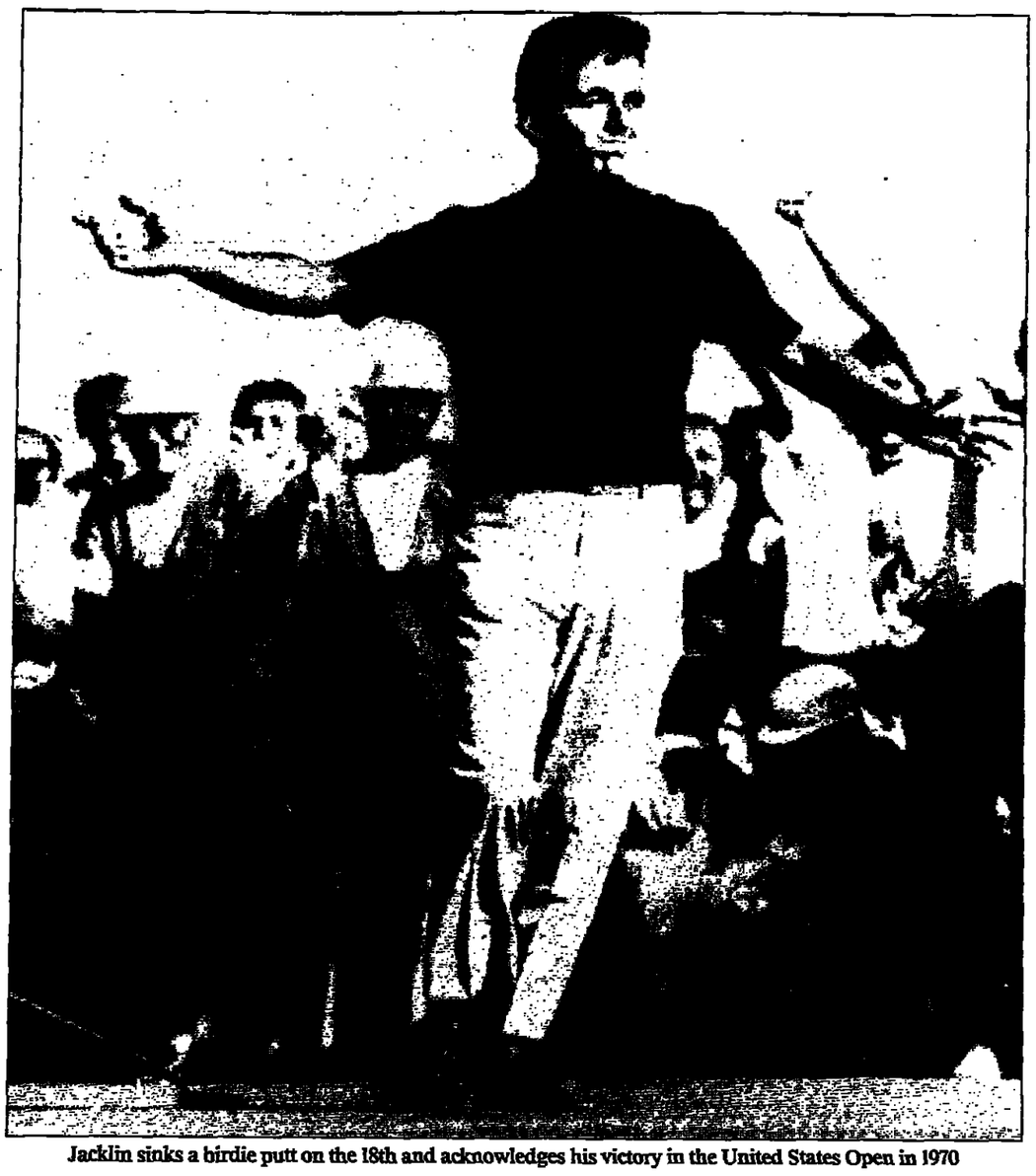
Among the leading teams taking part are the national champions, East Grinstead, Teddington and Southgate, all of whom will be slightly below strength. Soma Singh and John Shaw, of Southgate, and Jason Laslett and Philip Maguire, of Teddington, are on duty with England in France, while East Grinstead have parted company with David Luckes, their goalkeeper.

Old Loughtonians and St Albans have decided to play in the Norwich Union east indoor league taking place at the same time at Spalding and the Kelsey Kerridge Hall, Cambridge.

هكذا من الأصل

American access holds key to expansion

Concluding his examination of British sport, **David Miller**, chief sports correspondent, predicts a bright and healthy future for golf



Jacklin sinks a birdie putt on the 18th and acknowledges his victory in the United States Open in 1970



Schofield: optimistic



Watson: modest man



Gallacher: staying on

The golfer, wrote the estimable Bernard Darwin, when doyen of this newspaper 50 years ago, does not appear at his best at Christmas. A painful alternative is before him. To neglect his family around the tree and defect to the golf course or else go through it all in a state of Stygian and dyspeptic gloom, "in which case, although the conduct will be the less base, the sum total of unhappiness produced by will probably be the greater".

Although golf was not part of my early sporting education, growing into it was to discover that, in so many ways, it is the ideal sport, teaching us so much about ourselves. This remains so even in the intensely commercial world of today. If there is one professional sport that can confidently look forward to a future of dramas free of degrading controversy, it is the long walk behind that tiny, perverse space shuttle.

It is not so many years since professional golf in Britain was still on the wrong side on the social tracks, where a professional wishing to play at, say, Royal St George's in Kent would have had to change in his car. The swing of the pendulum had begun in the Thirties, with Henry Cotton arriving for tournaments in his Rolls with a champagne picnic in the boot. It accelerated with Tony Jacklin's milestone victory in the United States Open in 1970 and the professionals' ultimate social, as well as playing, fulfilment arrived with the Ryder Cup victory, under Jacklin's captaincy, in 1985.

It is now difficult to imagine it was ever different, though as in so many fields, Britain was a generation behind the United States. Back in the Sixties, it used to be said that the difference between the successful American tournament professional and his British counterpart was that if anyone warned the American not to get a big head, he was likely to reply: "What's a big head?" Yet as in most sports, reticence or boastfulness are equivalent handicaps, and one of the joys of the game is to listen to the enduring modesty of men such as Bernard Gallacher and Tom Watson, the respective Europe and United States Ryder Cup captains this year.

What is needed, however, for a continuing improvement among Europeans — already developing at a pace in Scandinavia and Spain — is more open access to the leading American tournaments. As Ken Schofield, executive director of the PGA European Tour, has observed, the rest of the world is paying the price of 50 years' dominance by the United States, the consequence of which is that three of the four major championships in the grand slam of strokeplay tournaments are in the United States — the Masters, US Open and US PGA. The other is the Open Championship.

Imagine if the same situation existed in tennis, with three of the four grand slam tournaments in the United States. Even as things were until a few years ago, with three of the tournaments on grass — Kooyong in Sydney, Wimbledon and Forest Hills, New York — it was predictable that Australia, Britain and the United States had dominated 50 years of the Davis Cup with only a brief interruption by the French musketeers. Because the United States has the predominance of leading tournaments, it produces the golfers, and not just because it has the sponsorship/television income and 20 million players, compared with one million in Britain and 60,000 in Spain.

It is hard to imagine there being a major in Australia, because of distance and the inability of the Australian game to sustain it. Possibly, it could happen in Japan in 20 years' time, given the strength of Japanese sponsorship, but there would need to be a flood of Japanese players in the wake of "Jumbo" Ozaki, Tommy Nakajima and Isao Aoki.

"We *must* have access [to the Masters and US Open] to give the rest of the world a chance," Schofield said. "If you consider this year's respective Ryder Cup teams, Watson's had collectively played some 500 majors, an average of 40 per player. That's why Chip Beck and Davis Love won their critical singles. They'd been there before, so to speak; they had the experience. Costantino Rocca, by comparison, had played in only three British Opens."

The US PGA does favour allowing a wider European entry, because it has responsibility for the American Ryder Cup team and recognises the importance. Europeans believe that the Sony world rankings table should be used by all the majors for calculating right of entry. Americans resent this, inevitably, because they see the loss of "their" prize-money, from which they can become rich by no more than consistently appearing in the top ten.

Talking to a young Jacklin in 1967, when he had just finished fifth in the British Open and fame was still over the horizon, he related a round with Arnold Palmer in the United States and leading the great man by three strokes on the day. "It was an extraordinary feeling," Jacklin, then 22, said. "Suddenly thinking 'I can be as good as this fellow; he's just like anyone else'.

"The difference is, he has experienced every experience. It doesn't matter whether he hits five birdies in a row or is in the woods, he doesn't start shaking and wondering how long it will last. At the 16th, I was in a bunker and had the crowd yelling: 'C'mon, Tony, hole it!' In America, you find yourself with a feeling that cancels negative thoughts."

The present continuity of emerging European players seems assured, with Colin Montgomerie, Darren Clarke and David Gilford finishing I-2-3 in the Volvo Masters at Valderrama, Montgomerie simultaneously claiming the Harry Vardon Trophy from Nick Faldo at the top of the order of merit. One of the benefits of that is automatic invitation to the three American majors.

The European Tour has come a long way in 21 years, from its initial £250,000 prize-money at 17 tournaments, under the direction of John Jacobs, to the present £23 million at 38 tournaments. Its contract with Volvo runs until 1996 but Schofield is optimistic about sustained sponsor support.

If ever the future of a sport turned on a single incident, it could be said to have been the three-foot gimme that Jack Nicklaus conceded to Jacklin in the tied Ryder Cup of 1969. In a competition hitherto dying on its feet from one-sidedness, the Americans upped their temperament. Gallacher recalls, for their defence in 1971. "Less sociable and more competitive" he remembers. Subsequently, there was Nicklaus's letter to Lord Derby, proposing the extension from a British Isles to a European team, enabling the participation of the magical Ballesteros. From 1983 at West Palm Beach, where Europe failed by one point, the Ryder Cup became, in my opinion, the most fulfilling spectacle to be found anywhere in the world of sport. Simultaneously electric and dignified, with a unique mood both between the teams and among the crowd.

That mood has faltered a couple of times, once at The Belfry, with chauvinistic heckling of American players, and then at Kiawah Island in 1991, under America's captain, Dave Stockton. "The Americans stopped at nothing [in '91], at least that was the mood that came across to our camp," Schofield recalled. "There has to be mutual respect because control [of sportsmanship] goes from the playing arena outwards. It can only be transmitted from *inside* the ropes. If the Ryder Cup were to lose values, the players would lose interest."

Gallacher said: "The players are not paid, which makes it special, unique. To make the team is the best thing that can happen to you — the pride in recognition, the responsibility of knowing that what you do affects not yourself, as normally, but everyone else."

With two relatively young teams having lost twice in succession, Gallacher — who has decided to continue as captain for the 1995 match at Oak Hill in Rochester, New York — considers Europe has a good chance, home or away, nowadays. "America has the numbers, the courses, the weather, so it's remarkable that we go across and play them on equal terms," he said.

It was disappointing Jacklin should have seemingly tried to talk himself back into the captaincy after the defeat this year, unleashing retrospective criticism of Gallacher for lack of single-mindedness and complaining about dressing-room opinion, of players manipulating the captain. In the next breath, Jacklin was suggesting he could captain the team even when he would be involved on the United States Seniors Tour.

An additional reason for European confidence in the future — besides the form of rising players such as Peter Baker and Paul Broadhurst — is the PGA's plan for a "school of excellence" at The Belfry, which will develop players along the lines of the United States collegiate system.

Not that the older European players are yet finished, even if Ballesteros's back problem has led to a miserable year for him. Faldo, who can still give Raymond Floyd a few years, showed a renewed maturity during the Ryder Cup and retains an ambition to equal Vardon's record of six Open Championships and the grand slam achievement of Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus, all of whom won each major at least once.

Guildford players call off protest over money

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

THE poverty-stricken players of Guildford Kings have called off a planned boycott of the Budweiser League basketball fixture against the Worthing Bears tonight after being paid "a substantial amount" towards what they are owed.

Worthing, the league champions last season, are expecting a capacity 1,200 crowd for the game against England's European championship representatives, but that, according to Karl Brown, a 20-point scorer for Guildford in their 81-72 defeat by Real Madrid on Thursday, would have cut no ice.

"We should have made this stand a long time ago," he said yesterday. "It had got beyond a joke. All we had had was a niggly amount of what we were owed. Let's just say it was well under half."

Barry Dow, the club's joint owner, had waited until yesterday for the $50,000 due from Dorna, the sports marketing company in charge of television rights for games in the later stages of the European championship. His hands had been tied until the balance had been paid by the Spanish-based firm, which has agreed to pay $300,000 (about £200,000) to all 16 clubs in the two semi-final pools of eight. Until yesterday, he had received only $100,000 of the first instalment of $150,000 which was due in October. He now expects the second payment of $150,000 to be paid in January.

Apparently, Dorna sent the money on Monday. "The trouble was obviously the Spanish banking system," Dow said. Last week, he threatened to pull the plug on Spanish television's coverage of Guildford's home tie with Barcelona unless he had indications that the money would be paid. The game with Real Madrid went ahead on Thursday without any such ultimatum.

Dow's difficulties had received little sympathy from Brown. "Christmas is coming, and all my nieces and nephews are expecting presents from Uncle Karl," he said. "I couldn't go home without any."

Mike Smith, the Basketball League's chief executive, had been monitoring the situation closely. "Quite rightly the players should be paid," he said. "I'm sympathetic towards their problems, but to not play the game would have been no way to resolve the situation."

Guildford gave their best performance in the European championships against Real Madrid, but still slipped to their sixth successive defeat in semi-final Pool A.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

3.0 unless stated
** all-ticket matches*

FA Carling Premiership
* Blackburn v Manchester City
Coventry City v Oldham Athletic
Everton v Newcastle United
* Ipswich v Norwich City
Leeds United v Arsenal
Sheffield Wednesday v West Ham
* Swindon Town v Southampton
* Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool
Wimbledon v Sheffield United

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	20	15	4	1	40	16	49
Leeds	20	10	6	4	34	23	36
Blackburn	19	10	5	4	26	17	35
Arsenal	20	9	7	4	19	11	34
Newcastle	19	9	5	5	35	19	32
Norwich	18	8	7	3	29	19	31
QPR	20	9	4	7	34	28	31
Aston Villa	20	8	7	5	23	20	31
Liverpool	19	9	3	7	30	23	30
West Ham	20	8	5	7	18	20	29
Tottenham	20	6	6	6	26	21	28
Ipswich	20	6	6	6	18	23	25
Everton	20	7	4	9	20	24	25
Wimbledon	19	6	7	6	21	26	25
Sheff Wed	20	5	9	6	32	29	24
Coventry	19	5	8	6	20	23	23
Man City	20	4	7	9	19	25	19
Oldham	20	4	6	10	15	31	18
Sheff Utd	20	3	8	9	18	31	17
Chelsea	19	3	6	10	12	22	15
Southampton	20	4	2	14	18	31	14
Swindon	20	1	8	11	17	42	11

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
Birmingham City v Charlton Athletic
Bolton Wanderers v Grimsby Town
Bristol City v Wolverhampton Wanderers
Middlesbrough v Notts County
Portsmouth v Oxford United
Sunderland v Derby County

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tranmere	21	12	4	5	34	22	40
Charlton	20	11	5	4	35	15	38
Crystal Palace	20	11	4	5	36	23	37
Millwall	21	10	6	5	30	21	36
Leicester	20	10	5	5	31	18	35
Southend	20	10	4	6	34	25	34
Portsmouth	21	8	7	5	30	28	31
Stoke	20	10	3	7	32	32	33
Derby	19	9	3	7	31	32	30
Bristol City	21	8	6	7	25	24	30
Notts Forest	18	8	5	6	29	26	29
Wolves	20	8	4	8	33	28	28
Bolton	20	7	6	7	27	26	27
Notts County	20	8	2	10	27	34	26
Middlesbrough	19	6	6	7	26	23	24
West Brom	19	6	5	8	32	31	23
Grimsby	18	4	9	6	24	23	21
Barnsley	21	5	5	11	26	39	20
Luton	20	6	2	12	23	26	20
Birmingham	20	5	5	10	20	30	20
Sunderland	19	6	2	11	19	30	20
Oxford Utd	20	5	4	11	24	37	19
Watford	20	5	4	11	24	39	19
Peterborough	19	3	6	10	16	27	15

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge Utd v Ipswich; Chelsea v Gillingham, Millwall v QPR, Norwich v Charlton; Portsmouth v Watford; Southend v Fulham; Tottenham v Arsenal; West Ham v Leyton Orient. Second division: Bournemouth v Tottenham; Bristol R v Oxford, Colchester v Bristol C; Crystal Palace v Luton, Reading v Wimbledon; Southampton v Brentford, Swindon v Brighton.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ballymena v Newry; Bangor v Ballyclare; Crusaders v Glentoran; Distillery v Coleraine, Glentoran v Cliftonville, Lame v Ards, Linfield v Portadown; Omagh Town v Carrick.

Second division
Bournemouth v Bristol Rovers
Brighton v Bradford
Exeter v Brentford
Hull v Barnet
Leyton Orient v Cardiff
Port Vale v Burnley
Reading v Huddersfield
Swansea v York

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading	19	13	4	2	44	21	43
Stockport	19	12	4	3	34	15	40
Bristol Rovers	19	10	5	4	26	18	35
Port Vale	19	10	4	5	37	23	34
Plymouth	19	10	4	5	37	26	34
Blackpool	20	10	3	7	35	31	33
Burnley	19	10	2	7	32	24	32
Hull	19	9	3	7	33	30	30
Brentford	19	8	6	5	22	16	30
Wrexham	19	7	6	6	31	31	27
Bournemouth	18	7	6	5	20	19	27
Bradford	19	7	5	7	30	29	26
Leyton Orient	18	7	4	7	23	27	25
York	19	7	4	8	24	21	25
Exeter	19	6	6	7	30	37	24
Cambridge Utd	19	6	6	7	25	27	24
Swansea	19	6	5	8	23	29	23
Cardiff	19	5	5	9	27	31	20
Huddersfield	19	4	6	9	24	33	18
Rotherham	19	4	5	10	19	28	17
Hartlepool	20	4	5	11	18	27	17
Brighton	19	3	7	9	17	32	16
Fulham	19	4	3	12	19	29	15
Barnet	19	2	2	15	18	44	8

Not including last night's matches

Third division
Chesterfield v Gillingham
Northampton v Bury
Rochdale v Darlington
Scarborough v Hereford
Scunthorpe v Wigan
Torquay v Walsall
Wycombe v Carlisle

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crewe	18	11	4	3	38	24	37
Preston	18	11	3	4	43	29	36
Chester	18	10	2	6	31	18	32
Walsall	18	9	5	4	24	16	32
Wycombe	18	8	5	5	29	24	29
Shrewsbury	18	8	4	6	30	19	28
Rochdale	18	8	3	7	32	26	27
Torquay	18	8	3	7	32	28	27
Scunthorpe	18	7	6	5	25	14	27
Doncaster	18	8	2	8	22	24	26
Bury	18	7	4	7	29	27	25
Lincoln	18	7	4	7	29	33	25
Mansfield	18	7	4	7	22	29	25
Colchester	18	7	2	9	35	44	23
Chesterfield	17	7	2	8	23	29	23
Carlisle	18	5	7	6	25	20	22
Gillingham	18	5	6	7	22	25	21
Scarborough	18	5	3	10	21	31	18
Wigan	18	4	4	10	26	38	16
Hereford	17	4	3	10	27	40	15
Darlington	18	3	5	10	22	32	14
Northampton	18	2	5	11	18	35	11

Not including last night's matches

GM Vauxhall Conference
Bath City v Northwich Victoria
Bromsgrove Rovers v Stalybridge
Dover Athletic v Halifax Town
Gateshead v Woking
Kettering v Welling United
Merthyr Tydfil v Macclesfield
Southport v Kidderminster
Stafford v Slough
Telford v Dagenham/Redbridge
Witton Albion v Altrincham

Beazer Homes League
Premier division
Bashley v Greeley
Cambridge C v Crawley
Corby v Trowbridge
Dorchester v Chelmsford
OTHER MATCHES: Burton v Moor Green; Atherstone v Wisbech; Cheltenham v Nuneaton (2pm); Farnborough v Hednesford; Halesowen v Hastings; Solihull v Worcester. Midland division: Armitage v Dudley; Bilston v Grantham; Bridgnorth v VS Rugby; Forest Green v Evesham; King's Lynn v Weston-super-Mare; Leicester v Rushden; Newport AFC v Bedworth; Redditch v RC Warwick; Sutton Coldfield v Stourbridge; Tamworth v Clevedon; Yate v Hinckley. Southern division: Baldock v Margate; Braintree v Fisher 93; Canterbury v Weymouth; Dunstable v Sudbury Town; Newport, IoW v Gravesend; Poole v Buckingham; Salisbury v Burnham; Tonbridge v Fareham; Wealdstone v Ashford; Witney v Erith.

Diadora League
Premier division
Carshalton v Hendon
Dorking v Grays
Kingstonian v Chesham
Wivenhoe v Yeading
Wokingham v Sutton Utd
OTHER MATCHES: Aylesbury v Basingstoke; Bromley v Marlow; Enfield v Stevenage Borough; Harrow v St Albans; Hayes v Molesey. First division: Barking v Maidenhead Utd; Berkhamsted Town v Whyteleafe; Bishops Stortford v Billericay Town; Chalfont St. Peter v Boreham Wood; Croydon v Leyton; Purfleet v Uxbridge; Ruislip Manor v Abingdon Town; Staines Town v Bognor Regis Town; Tooting & Mitcham v Wembley; Windsor & Eton v Heybridge Swifts; Worthing v Walton & Hersham. Second division: Aveley v Met Police; Chertsey v Hemel Hempstead; Edgware v Collier Row; Hampton v Hungerford Town; Lewes v Leatherhead; Newbury v Saffron Walden; Thame v Barton; Tilbury v Egham; Wara v Rainham. Third division: Bradwell v Clapton; Cove v Kingsbury; East Thurrock v Northwood; Epsom v Oxford City; Feltham v Leighton; Flackwell Heath v Harlow; Hanwell v Chesham; Hertford v Camberley; Royston v Hornchurch; Tring v Horsham.

Tennents Scottish Cup
First round replay
Huntly v Albion P
Whitehill v Stranraer (1.30)

Scottish League
Premier division
Aberdeen v Kilmarnock
Celtic v Hibernian
Dundee v Motherwell
Heart of Midlothian v Raith Rovers
Partick Thistle v Dundee United
St Johnstone v Rangers
First division
Airdrie v Clyde
Ayr v Falkirk
Dumbarton v Brechin
Dunfermline v St Mirren
Hamilton v Clydebank
Morton v Stirling
Second division
East Fife v Berwick
East Stirling v Stenhousemuir
Forfar v Queen's Park
Meadowbank v Cowdenbeath
Queen of South v Arbroath

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division: Chorley v Bishop Auckland; Colwyn Bay v Barrow; Leek v Knowsley; Marine v Buxton; Winsford v Boston. First division: Alfreton v Molesley; Caernarfon v Spennymoor; Congleton v Bamber Bridge; Farsley Celtic v Ashton Utd; Gretna v Harrogate Town; Guiseley v Gt Harwood; Lancaster City v Eastwood Town.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division; Ashfield Utd v Denaby Utd; Eccleshill Utd v Pickering Town; Hucknall Town v Brigg Town; Lincoln Utd v Oswest Albion; North Ferriby Utd v Thackley; Ossett Town v Liversedge; Ponefract Col. v Glasshoughton Wel; Sheffield v Maltby MW; Winterton Rangers v Belper Town.

ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH CUP: Fourth round:; Ebbw Vale v Connah's Quay.

FA VASE: Third round: Radcliffe Borough v Yorkshire Ams. Third round replay: Hinckley Athletic v Great Wakering Rovers.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Westbury; Calne v Tiverton; Elmore v Cheddar; Frome v Mangotsfield; Liskeard v Bristol MF; Minehead v Saltash; Odd Down v Chippenham; Paulton v Taunton; Torrington v Exmouth.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning v Glyn; Old Tenisonians v Old Aloysians; Old Tiffinians v Old Hamptonians; Chertsey v Old Meadonians. Senior cup: Old Ignatians v Old Chigwellians; Phoenix v Old Parmiterians.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: First division: Mill Hill Village v Old Finchleians; Old Beaconians v Parkfield; St Mary's College v Wandsworth Borough; Witan v Old Grammarians.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Carthusians v Aldenhamians; Malvernians v Haileyburians; Wiltelans v Bradfieldians. Premier division: Brentwoods v Cholmeleians; Reptonians v Lancing; Salopians v Etonians.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Carshalton v Lensbury; NatWest Bank v Civil Service; Old Actonians v South Bank Polytechnic; West Wickham v Crouch End Vampires; Winchmore Hill v Norsemen.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonia v Guisborough Town; Blyth Spartans v Consett; Brandon v Durham City; Dunston FB v Chester Le Street; Murton v Newcastle Blue Star; Seaham Red Star v Ferryhill Athletic; Shildon v Stockton; Tow Law Town v Northallerton; West Auckland v Hebburn; Whitby v Eppleton CW.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR v Darwen; Bacup v Blackpool Rovers; Bradford Park Avenue v St Helens; Chadderton v Salford; Eastwood Hanley v Penrith; Kidsgrove v Boodle; Mossa Road v Rossendale; Newcastle Town v Burscough; Prescot v Nantwich.

RUGBY UNION

3.0 unless stated

Pilkington Cup
Fourth round
Bath v Wasps
Blackheath v Leicester (2.0)
Bristol v Harlequins
Harlequins v Basingstoke
Havant v London Irish (2.0)
London Scottish v Fylde (2.0)
Moseley v Winnington Park
Newcastle G v Bridgwater and A
Northampton v Waterloo
Nottingham v Gloucester
Orrell v Stourbridge (2.30)
Otley v Wharfedale (2.15)
Rosslyn Park v Coventry
Rugby v Sale
Saracens v Birmingham/Solihull (2.15)
Wakefield v West Hartlepool (2.30)

PILKINGTON SHIELD: Fifth round: London and South-East: Loughton v Bank of England; Old Caterhamians v Belsize Park; Old Hamptonians v Deal Wanderers; St Albans v Trojans; Woking v London Hospital. Midlands: Birmingham City Officials v Edwardian; Melton Mowbray v Kidderminster Carolians; Oakham v Malvern; Wellingborough Old Grammarians v Silhurstone. North: Alnerburgh v Keswick; Colne and Nelson v West Leeds; Halifax Vandals v Wibsey, South and South-West: Beaconsfield v Bishopston; Dartmouth v Barton Hill OB; Huddlescote OB v Burnage; St Agnes v Old Public Oaks.

Courage Clubs Championship
Third division
Richmond v Exeter (2.15)
Fourth division
Askeans v Clifton
Broughton Park v Sheffield
Harrogate v Leeds
Liverpool St Helens v Sudbury
Plymouth v Aspatria
Fifth division north
Durham v Lichfield (2.15)
Kendal v Walsall
Nuneaton v Preston Grasshoppers
Stoke v Bradford and Bingley
Fifth division south
Camborne v Maidstone
High Wycombe v London Welsh
Lydney v Berry Hill
North Walsham v Tabard
Weston-super-Mare v Met Police

Swalec Cup
Fourth round (2.30)
Abercarn v Pyle
Abercynon v Pencoed
Aberdillery v Neath
Bonymaen v Tonyrefail
Bridgend v Penarth
Caerphilly v Llandy
Cardiff v Pontypool
Cardiff Quins v Nantymoel
Cross Keys v Glamorgan W
Crumlin v Maesteg
Dunvant v Mountain Ash
Fairwater v Newport
Kidwelly v Machen
Llanharan v Chepstow
Llantrisant v Llanelli
Maesteg Celtic v Rhymney
Mold v Beddau
New Dock Stars v Llandovery
Oakdale v Builth Wells
Old Penarthians v Seven Sisters
Pontypridd v Treorchy
Rhiwbina v Aberavon
Rumney v Felinfoel
St Peter's v Abercrave
Swansea v Ebbw Vale
Talywain v Cardiff Institute
Tenby Utd v Blackwood
Tondu v Newport Saracens
Wattstown v Narberth (2.15)
Wrexham v Newbridge
Ynysybwl v South Wales Police
Ystradgynlais v Glynneath

Heineken League
Third division
Tumble v Kanfig Hill

McEwan's National League
First division
Currie v Heriots FP
Jed-Forest v West of Scotland
Melrose v Boroughmuir
Selkirk v Gala
Second division
Dundee HSFP v Grangemouth (2.0)
Glasgow High v Kirkcaldy (2.0)

Club matches
Edinburgh W v Edinburgh Acad (2.0)
Redruth v St Ives (2.30)
Watsonians v Ayr (2.0)

Irish inter-provincial championship
Leinster v Connacht
Ulster v Munster

RUGBY LEAGUE

2.0 unless stated

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Second round
Askam v Chorley
Blackbrook v Beverley
Clayton v Oulton
Dewsbury Celtic v Heworth
East Leeds v Egremont
Ellenborough v Wooleton
Hensingham v Mysons
Leigh East v Millom
Leigh Miners Welfare v Moldgreen
Mayfield v Wigan St Patricks
Millford v Irlam Hornets
Redhill v Orrell St James
Saddleworth v Oldham St Annes
Shaw Cross v Thatto Heath
Walney Central v Barrow Island
West Hull v Park Amateurs

Regal Trophy
Quarter-final
Warrington v Wigan (3.0)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Dudley Hill v Hemel Hempstead (2.0).

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Hemel Hempstead v London; Leicester v Chester; Manchester v Doncaster; Sunderland v Derby; Thames Valley v Oldham; Worthing v Guildford.

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Cardiff v Bristol; Coventry v Plymouth; Sheffield v Solent; Ware v Stockton. Second division: Chiltern v Northampton; London v Liverpool; Nottingham v Mid-Sussex; Stevenage v Guildford; Swindon v Leicester.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Barking and Dagenham v London; Sheffield v Ipswich; South Tyneside v Nottingham; Thames Valley v Northampton. Second division: Leicester v Sunderland; Spelthorne v Harlesden; Guildford v Luton; London v Cardiff.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL INVITATION INDOOR LEAGUE (at Cocks Moors Woods): Harborne v Barford Tigers (9.30); Firebrands v Doncaster (10.20); Stourport v Neston (11.10); Teddington v Welton (12.00); East Grinstead v Harborne (12.50); Barford Tigers v Firebrands (1.40); Southgate v Stourport (2.30); Neston v Teddington (3.20); Doncaster v East Grinstead (4.10); Welton v Southgate (5.00); Harborne v Firebrands (5.50).

PIZZA EXPRESS LONDON LEAGUE: Premier division: Guildford v Teddington; Hounslow v Southgate; Old Loughtonians v Richmond; Slough v Wimbledon; St Albans v Reading; Surbiton v Bromley.

VOLLEYBALL

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men's first division: Wessex v Ealing; Tooting v Liverpool City; Whitefield v Newcastle (Staffs); Lewisham v Leeds.

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: EIBA inter-club championship: Fifth round: Whiteknights v Christie Miller; Ilminster v Teignbridge; Paddington v Cyphers; Mote Park v Athenley; Stanley v Central and South-west Durham; Blackpool Borough v Boston; Cambridge Chesterton v Coventry; North Walsham v Essex County; Cambridge Park v Egham; Sevenoaks v East Dorset; Desborough v Pendlewell; St Andrews v Exmouth; Ely v Leicester; Wymondham Dell v Ipswich; South Tyneside v Thornaby; Old Mill v South Forest.

BOXING: British featherweight championship (Wythenshawe Forum, Manchester): Duke McKenzie (Croydon) v John Davison (Newcastle).

EQUESTRIANISM: Olympia championships.

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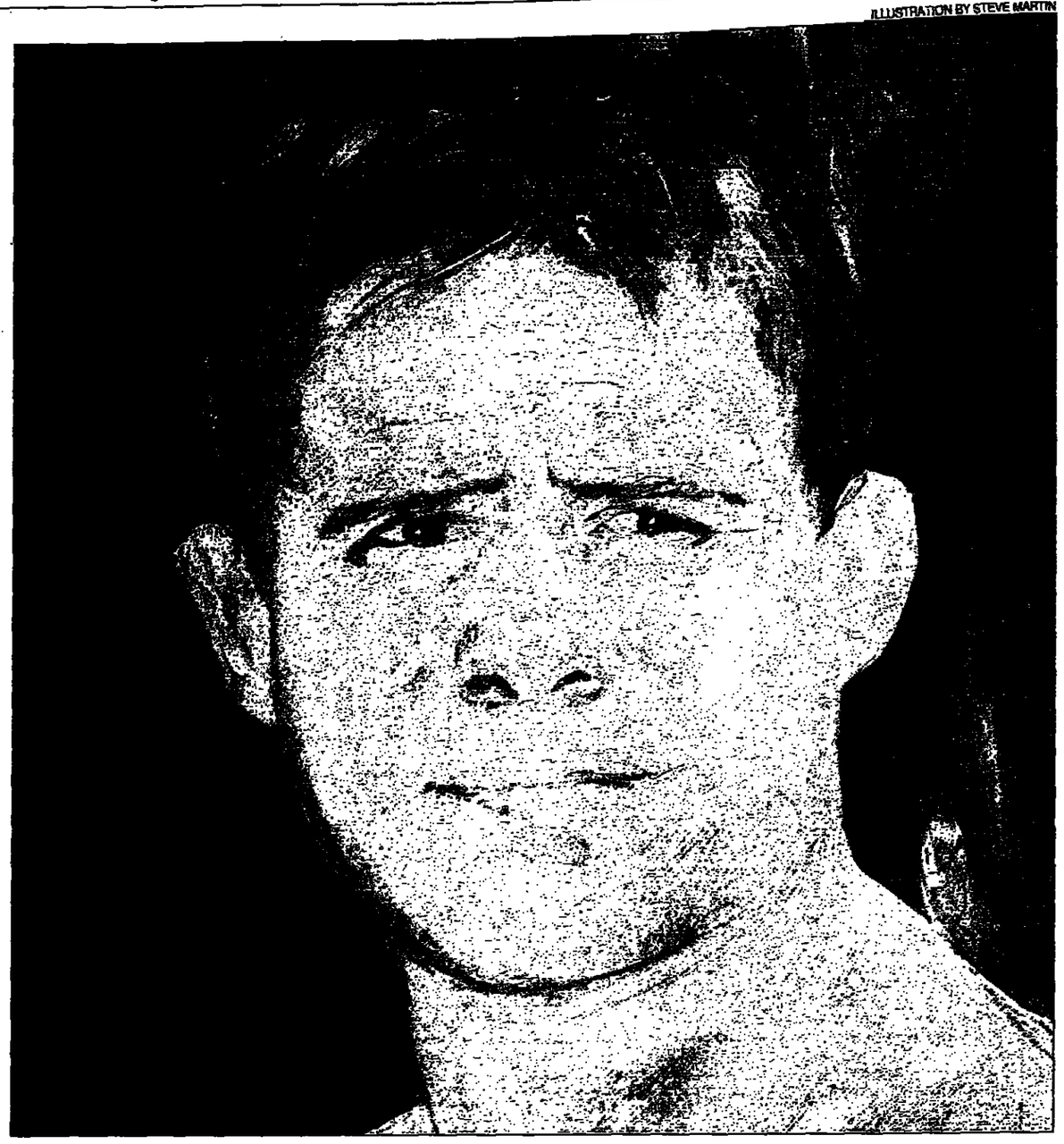
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Saturday portrait: Julio César Chávez, by Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent

Lord of the ring with convincing claims to boxing's greatest title

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN



Julio César Chávez is probably the greatest pound-for-pound boxer of all time, greater perhaps than Muhammad Ali. Chávez would be the last person to claim such fame, especially to upstage Ali, his hero. He is too polite and modest a man.

The reason why the Mexican world champion's face is not known throughout the world like Ali's is because he is not a heavyweight and not from the United States. Yet, comparing the records and abilities of the two men, there is little doubt that Ali comes out second best. Whereas Ali lost bouts, Chávez, at 31, is still undefeated, with a record of 88 wins and one draw. Of those victories, 73 have been knockouts. He could be the first boxer to reach an unbeaten century, after which he will say "boxing, no mas".

Whereas Ali was primarily a boxer and then all things to all men, Chávez's responsibility is not just to hold on to his World Boxing Council and World Boxing Associate light-welterweight crowns, which he defends tonight against Andy Holligan, from Liverpool, but also to run a huge business empire. Board meetings with members of his family are as common as gym workouts. "I know I am not an Ali or a Sugar Ray Leonard," Chávez said. "But I have beaten all their records. I do not have a big endorsement. That is because I am a Mexican. But I'm satisfied with what God has given me." Chávez is far bigger in his country than Ali was in his, if only from the point of view that the Mexican is universally liked by his countrymen.

"I have come from the poorest house in the poorest place to wealth and to walk with the president, but I remain one of the people and they know it," Chávez said. Today Chávez lives in a $2-million mansion in Culiacán with his wife, Amalia, and three children, Julio, eight, Omar, four, and Christine, nine months. He is a friend of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who puts his presidential jet or helicopter at the disposal of Chávez.

Gladys Rosa, Chávez's personal assistant, says people love him because, despite being a world champion and a multi-millionaire, he has never forgotten the Mexican ideal of commitment to family and community. "If people want money he gives it," Rosa said. "If a woman had not enough money to buy a coffin for her husband, he gives her the money."

He was born in Ciudad Obregón, Sonora, in northern Mexico, the fourth of ten children of Rodolfo and Isabelita Chávez. Rodolfo was a railway worker whose wages 31 years ago were the equivalent of a dollar a day. His mother, apart from taking care of the children and cooking for the family, cleaned other people's homes and ironed other people's clothes to supplement her husband's meagre income. They lived in a train caboose.

Chávez was born and weighed-in in that railway wagon. At the age of four he helped swell the family finances by doing a milk and newspaper round. He promised his mother that one day he would earn enough money to buy her a proper house. Today, as Mexico's leading businessman, that promise has been fulfilled.

> 'He is regarded as a Messiah in his own country. Wherever he he goes, thousands come out to meet him'

But Chávez has never been able to get away from the old railway wagon. About 28 years, 71 fights and 18 world title bouts later, it came back to haunt him and played a significant part in his life. The story goes that when Don King, Chávez's promoter, who at that time had taken Mike Tyson under his wing, was trying to sell Chávez to HBO, the American cable television channel, Seth Abraham, the head of HBO, unintentionally used a metaphor that proved to be the most hurtful blow that Chávez has received. Abraham allegedly told King: "We will not accept the caboose without the engine [Tyson]". Rosa said: "You cannot imagine how insulted Julio was. He has never forgotten those words and from that day to this he has never had anything to do with HBO."

Despite falling out with a company that has made boxers into millionaires, Chávez has managed to keep making money. His earnings at first did not compare with those of the more fashionable Americans such as Tyson, Leonard and Hagler, but in Mexico American dollars went a long way. He invested his money well. He got his biggest break when he defended his light-welterweight title against Hector Camacho in December 1990. It was the most profitable show put on by King, and Chávez made $10 million out of the contest.

With the money from that bout and the one against Meldrick Taylor eight months earlier, he consolidated his business ventures. Chávez has multi-million dollar investments and as an employer he is not far behind Mexico's leading companies, Televisa and Volkswagen. In 1994, he is expected to feature more prominently in the United States, with endorsements from two large drink and clothing companies imminent. He has also signed to make a film about a boxer.

Most of Chávez's money is invested in supermarkets, petrol stations, construction companies, cinemas and office blocks. He is the biggest employer in Culiacán. A workforce of 150,000 is building 3,000 homes for poor families. Chávez, who has financed the training and employment of those workers, knows that he has given them skills to help them help themselves. But the poverty of Mexico is a source of constant frustration for him as he is not able to help everyone.

Little wonder that he is seen as the Messiah in his country. Wherever he goes thousands come out to see him. He established a world record for a work-out attendance when 25,000 turned out to see him training to meet Greg Haugen. There were 136,000 at the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City to see the bout.The attendance broke the record of 120,000 set by Dempsey and Tunney 67 years ago in Philadelphia. The 63,000 at the Alamodome, San Antonio, Texas, where Chávez met Pernell Whitaker, set a record for indoor attendance in the United States. Tonight 70,000 are expected for the bout against Holligan in Puebla.

From the boxing point of view, Chávez is quite un-Mexican. He does not go tearing in and at his workouts he prefers the music of the Beatles to South American rhythms. He has superb body and head movements which enable him to deliver his devastating left hook without being caught coming in. He has an uncanny knack of finding leverage close in. Unlike most Mexican boxers, he is prepared to wait for his openings, hunting down his victims like an assassin, the ring getting smaller and smaller with every step.

His most important bouts were against Haugen, Taylor and Whitaker. The Haugen bout was significant because of the record attendance, Taylor because of the controversial ending.

Taylor was well in front by the twelfth round and in the last ten seconds Chávez unleashed a combination that floored the American. With only two seconds left Richard Steele, the referee, stepped in. Though criticised by many for not letting the bout go the distance, he did the right thing. Taylor was taken to hospital after swallowing a pint of blood from a mouth injury and passing blood in his urine. Chávez was unmarked.

Moving up a division in the weights, Chávez was lucky to receive a draw against Whitaker. He was clearly beaten by the American, who had been well prepared by his trainer, George Benton. Whitaker presented so many angles that the Mexican could not get his boxing together. Chávez does not believe he lost the bout. He is such a determined competitor he cannot bear to lose. The Whitaker "defeat" should not tarnish his reputation. After all, he was beaten by a gifted boxer from a heavier division. Chávez should still be regarded as the best pound-for-pound boxer in the world.

Holligan facing uphill slog to catch champion

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT IN PUEBLA, MEXICO

IF ANDY Holligan's challenge for Julio César Chávez's WBA and WBC light-welterweight titles does not end quickly one way or another at the Cuauhtémoc stadium here tonight, the boxer from Liverpool could find himself on a make-or-break course after which it is unlikely he will ever be the same again.

Stepping into the same ring with Chávez can be a shattering experience. If, by some twist, Holligan causes the biggest upset ever, he will not be able to recognise himself — either financially or physically.

Unfortunately for the British and Commonwealth champion, he is what is known in the trade as a "crowd-pleaser", which means that he comes to fight. And that he intends to do.

He has been warned by all the experts that the only way to stop a train like Chávez is to derail it, not to stand in its way. It needed all the boxing skills of a gifted welterweight like Pernell Whitaker to check the progress of the Mexican. Whitaker was the first man to back up Chávez. Despite being lighter than Whitaker, Holligan believes he is stronger than the welterweight champion and can stand up to the body punches of Chávez. However, Mickey Duff, Holligan's former manager, believes "there is no one in the world more tailor-made for Chávez than Holligan". Duff believes that if Holligan goes five rounds he will have done well. Watching Chavez training the other day it became painfully clear that he throws too many punches for the challenger. The one to the liver is the most dangerous.

Holligan's best tactic is to make a hasty retreat once the first body punch has landed, for it is always followed by a compilation of around nine blows but, alas, the Englishman is determined to slog it out with Chávez come what may. In such a case an early ending with Holligan on the floor can be foreseen.

An early knockout might be the most merciful ending for Holligan, for boxing at an altitude of 7,200 feet he will be fighting for breath every step of the way after six rounds or so. Chávez will be doing his level best to knock the breath out of him as fast as he takes it in.

However, experience tells that upsets should not be ruled out. It will only happen if Chávez has not trained properly believing Holligan to be an easy touch, or has shown signs of being on the slide. But seeing him training the other day there seemed to be little sign of that.

One of boxing's most respected experts, Payton Sher, rules out an upset. He said: "I know Holligan has a good chin and seriously believes he can win. He can only succeed if Chávez has slipped badly in the last two months and I don't see any signs of that. Yes, he is not the same fighter that destroyed Edwin Rosario and Meldrick Taylor, but he has more than enough to beat Holligan, who is a typical English fighter, a little above a club fighter. I don't think he has a strong enough constitution mentally to stay with Chávez for more than five rounds."

Whatever the outcome the bout has been aptly named. *Furia Ex: losiva.*

TALE OF THE TAPE

Chávez		Holligan
31	Age	28
10st	Weight	10st
5ft 7in	Height	5ft6½in
67in	Reach	68in
	Chest	
38in	Normal	38in
38½in	Expanded	40in
13in	Biceps	14½in
10½in	Forearm	11½in
28in	Waist	28in
19½in	Thigh	22in
12in	Calf	15in
15¾in	Neck	16in
6in	Wrist	7in
9½in	Fist	11in
9in	Ankle	9in

RECORDS

Chávez: 88 wins (73 inside the distance), 1 draw

Holligan: 21 wins (15 inside the distance), 1 draw.

World Cup draw reaches final frontier

FROM ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN LAS VEGAS

LAS VEGAS awaits the World Cup draw tomorrow night like a down and out gambler awaiting life's windfall. And in the annex to Caesars Palace, the ultimate gambling den, officials of Fifa, the world governing body of football, have spent nights and days trying to organise the draw, or rather to produce the showbiz glitz fit for a world television audience approaching one billion.

Yesterday, Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of Fifa and the master of ceremonies, agreed to answer my questions on how his organisation is grappling with carrying football across the last frontier that is the United States.

Question: On Monday it seemed the roof was falling in on your draw ceremony. Julio Iglesias, Elton John, Magic Johnson and even President Clinton's daughter declined to appear. Does that leave only yourself on the stage?

Answer: One hour ago I got a call from Stevie Wonder, just to tell me he would appear. The file is not closed. We have Faye Dunaway and Beau Bridges, and Chelsea Clinton will appear, if only on video. We are still working on it.

(There are plans to pair off eight football personalities with eight from stage, screen and sport. The footballers are Platini, Eusebio, van Basten, Bobby Charlton, Beckenbauer, Roger Milla and a United States player, possibly the goalkeeper, Tony Meola).

Question: The changes to the draw have an in-built risk that could produce a group of leading footballing countries in one city and boring groups in others.

Answer: There is no way to escape that. But an interesting question for the British seems to be: will the Irish play in Boston? It is a popular place. Three seeded teams [Argentina, Brazil and Belgium] have expressed the wish to play there, perhaps because of the climate. But the decision of the venues will be decided by the Americans and the chairman of the Fifa organising committee. It will be left to the last minute and will add suspense. I would not be surprised if the Irish get their wish.

Question: Pelé was said by João Havelange, the president of Fifa, to be unlikely to take a central role in tomorrow's proceedings, because of his involvement in litigation against Havelange's son-in-law. Pelé is also the spokesman for MasterCard, one of Fifa's main sponsors. Is he in?

Answer: Let's wait until tomorrow and see. He is in, but I do not know where he will be placed in the programme. I would rather not comment on our president's approach to the problem.



Blatter will be master of ceremonies tomorrow

Question: Fifa has agreed to change the system, awarding three points for a win in the first phase of league matches in the finals. Why?

Answer: The essence of football should be going for goal. In the last World Cup this was not the case; some teams were determined to get to the quarter-finals by drawing all three matches. I expressed long ago my view that three points for a win would reward attacking football and punish those who played negatively. I think now you will see one of the best first rounds for many years.

Question: Philip Don, an English referee, on Wednesday issued six yellow cards in the match between Argentina and Germany. His decisions seemed far from the British way of allowing physical challenges.

Answer: He is on the list of 30 candidates for the World Cup finals. In his mind he is now thinking the Fifa way more than the British way. We have to protect the schemers, the thinkers and for years players have been cutting them down by all means. Those players call themselves artists, but in any other cultural activity I don't know where a competitor deliberately tries to injure an opponent. We have no alternative but to instruct referees to apply the laws very strictly — and our medical committee agrees that we must prohibit tackling from behind. We will tell the referees, and tell the players, that such tackling, where it is deliberate, will not be tolerated.

Question: In the world youth championship in March, yellow cards were waived after the first round matches. Will this apply at the World Cup?

Answer: Yes, but only in the case of a single yellow card. Some people think this is a new leniency but it gives a chance to players who made a single mistake to start again from the quarter-finals without the pressure of thinking they face a ban. At the last World Cup one player, Lothar Matthäus, had a yellow card and you could see for the next three games that he played less exuberantly because of the pressure.

Question: Talking of pressure, Berti Vogts, the German national team manager, said on Wednesday that he was opposed to Fifa's plan to add yet another world club tournament to an already overcrowded programme. Does Fifa recognise that players are only flesh and blood, that they have only so much breath?

Answer: We were misquoted on this. There is on the agenda of our executive committee such a tournament for discussion. But the matter of urgency is to co-ordinate an international calendar across the world so that the demands on players are eased. Not until this co-ordination is achieved will we decide any new competitions.

GROUPINGS

One team is drawn from each pot to make six groups of four. The nine venues will be announced later, although Germany, as holders, open in Chicago on June 17.

POT ONE: Germany, United States, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Italy.

POT TWO: Cameroon, Morocco, Nigeria, Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico.

POT THREE: Spain, Russia, Ireland, Romania, Holland, Bulgaria

POT FOUR: South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Norway, Greece, Switzerland

Question: Is the United States on schedule with Fifa's demand for a national professional soccer league?

Answer: I am satisfied that we will reach that target. I am not convinced that we will achieve the timetable which set 1995 as the year of inauguration, but I believe that we will make football a spectator as well as a participant sport in the United States.

Attendances rise despite England's World Cup failure

BY KEITH PIKE

A SEASON in which football supporters might have been expected to turn their back on the national game is instead proving unexpectedly attractive. Attendances in three of the four divisions are up by around ten per cent, and if the trend continues, league crowds will rise for the eighth successive year.

It had been expected that a seemingly unending diet of televised football and rising ticket prices, coupled with England's failure to qualify for the World Cup finals, would be reflected at the turnstiles, but with the season almost at the halfway point, figures reveal the opposite.

Adrian Cook, assistant secretary of the FA Premier League, said yesterday that attendances are up by more than nine per cent, and are on course to break 10 million on aggregate for the first time in 12 seasons. "It is very welcome news," he said.

The Football League, too, reported healthy increases in both the first division, up by 10.2 per cent, and the third division, with an increase of 9.9 per cent. Despite a fall in second division attendances, which are down 15.5 per cent, the aggregate figure has risen. "The signals are highly encouraging," Ian Cotton, a League spokesman, said.

Even the last Saturday before Christmas may this year provide a financial fillip for clubs. The Premiership programme in particular looks as if it was designed to counter poor attendances. Four of the nine matches this afternoon are all-ticket, with near full houses expected at Ewood Park, Portman Road, the County Ground in Swindon and White Hart Lane, while Peter Beardsley's return to Merseyside with Newcastle United and the meeting of Leeds United and Arsenal should ensure healthy gates at Goodison Park and Elland Road.

Then tomorrow, another 44,000 crowd at Old Trafford will take Manchester United's aggregate for the season towards the half million mark as the champions, 13 points clear, take on Aston Villa, last season's runners-up.

With United unbeaten at home for 14 months and Villa having lost once away from home in 15 matches this season, a repeat of the magnificent 1-1 draw between the sides in March is promised.

Peter Swales's successor as chairman of Manchester City, meanwhile, is still not known. It had been expected that Michael McDonald would be named yesterday, but having reached agreement with Swales, further lengthy board meetings were going on last night with the former chairman attmepting to gain the support of the directors. McDonald is understood to have given the directors an ultimatum that unless agreement is reached today he would withdraw his offer.

Gary Mabbutt, the Tottenham Hotspur captain, has been told he does not have to attend the FA commission of enquiry on Thursday that will decide whether to charge John Fashanu with misconduct.

Mabbutt suffered severe facial injuries in a collision with the Wimbledon striker on November 24.

Robert Fleck, the striker who cost Chelsea a club record transfer fee of £2.1 million when they bought him from Norwich City 17 months ago, yesterday joined Bolton Wanderers on a month's loan.

Barry Fry, the new Birmingham City manager, has started his team rebuilding by signing four players. Fry has paid Peterborough United £325,000 for their goalkeeper, Ian Bennett, taken Gary Cooper from the same club on a free transfer, and signed Kenny Lowe (from Stoke City) and Dave Barnett (from Barnet) on loan.

هكذا من الأصل



THE Oxford women's trial eight crews, *Stardust*, above, and *Glitter*, brightened a dull Henley morning on a swirling floodstream yesterday (Mike Rosewell writes). Racing over the downstream Royal Regatta distance, the 16 contenders for the 1994 Blue boat showed more strength in depth than in previous seasons, although the final verdict of the contest, a 1¼-length win for *Stardust*, was dictated more by the stream and the coxing than the power on the end of the blades.

Stardust, on the towpath station, and stroked by the 1993 Blue, Elizabeth Ayling, settled to 36 after the start, two strokes higher than *Glitter*, and established a ¾-length advantage by Remenham, but rousing shouts from Karen Alsford, the stroke of *Glitter*, produced more effort and the crews approached the Barrier almost level.

The steering adjustment necessary to pass to the left of Temple Island put the coxswains on trial. Tara Fitzgerald, in *Glitter*, moved left a fraction too early and lost the stream, but Neil Hindle, in *Stardust*, dwelt in the stream to the last possible moment, and his crew slipped ahead to a 2.8sec win.

Phil Halliday, the Oxford chief coach, has been receiving assistance from Richard Manners, an Oxford Blue in 1993. They have raced their oarswomen more than usual in Head races this autumn, largely sweeping the board at Tiffin and Marlow in fours and at Bristol in eights, after performances in the Tideway fours head, where Cambridge tended to take the crew-by-crew honours, if not the pennants.

Cambridge have dominated the women's boat race since its inception in 1927, and lead 32-17. Oxford have won only once since 1988.

Redskins on the warpath to Maryland



SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

BASINGSTOKE Hotspur. Cleveland Wednesday. Milton Keynes Rangers. Streatham Albion. Swinton Wanderers. It is not the sort of thing that happens here, is it? Football teams cannot be dissociated from the towns that surround them. You cannot transplant football teams; it would be flying in the face of nature.

But it happens all the time in the United States. The most famous example is the Brooklyn Dodgers baseball team, which became the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1958. The New York Giants became the San Francisco Giants and, last season, came within a toucher of moving again, this time to St Petersburg. No, silly, *St* Petersburg, *Florida*. This year, the Minnesota North Stars hockey team — ice, not field — left Minneapolis to become the Dallas Stars, leaving citizens from the bleak northern wastes complaining bitterly.

Tradition is sacred in the United States unless it gets in the way of making money; a viewpoint they share at that logo-encrusted temple of Mammon called Lord's. The National Football League is likely to be losing the venerable Washington Redskins and gaining the Maryland Redskins.

Jack Kent Cooke, the Redskins owner, has been involved in a sustained bout of political infighting, not the first time this has happened in the city. He was unable to purchase land for a new stadium in Washington DC, then failed in a effort to found the Virginia Redskins. Maryland here we come. Cooke said: "That's where a majority of the team's ticket-holders live." Can the establishment of London United be long delayed?

Loathsome stars

As usual, sportsmen figure prominently in *GQ* magazine's annual collection of 60 Men We Love To Loathe. In fifth place comes Graham Taylor, with Chris Eubank panting hard behind in eighth. Alan Sugar and Terry Venables are tied at thirteenth. Keith Fletcher is a new chart entry at 28th and Saint and Greavsie soar to 38th. Murray Walker — and this is *quite fantastic* — is 43rd while Ian Woosnam squeezes in at 47th. What . . . no room for Captain Keith Brown?

Risky option

The latest star man from Juventus football club of Italy, that great maker and destroyer of stars, is Serge Mabouete. Mabouete comes from Zaire, plays in the hole and is 12 years old. He was spotted playing against older players and dominating the game, scoring twice. Juventus took an option on him and brought him over to Italy, where he now plays for their boys team. He will either be the greatest player in history or blow up: place your bets now. Juventus, of course, does mean youth. Lock up your sons, I say.

Scilly game

Greetings across the waters to this column's favourite football league, the one based on the Isles of Scilly. The season started again a few weeks back and, to nobody's great surprise, the star fixture of the day was Woolpack Wanderers versus Garrison Gunners; these being the only two teams that compete. Cup draws do not worry the lads of either side; they play on the same ground. At the opening match of the season, a reporter from a leading Swedish daily — they're mad on English football over there — turned up with a photographer. Nice story and, inevitably, the reporter was bullied into playing.

Running scared

Greetings to Mike Clarke, who becomes the first known case of an athlete being bitten by a pig during a training run. As the issue of *Runner's World* will reveal next month, Clarke was on a nine-mile run through the New Forest when he surprised what he described as "an angry and aggressive



sow". Clarke was knocked off his feet and ended up with cracked ribs, severe lacerations and a hole in his thigh 1½ inches deep. He was off work for ten days but the magazine reports that he is now "fully cured". Ho ho ho.

K2 conqueror

The latest recipient of a bottle of ambrosial Calem Colheita 1962 tawny port is Pete Maxted, who elects to the Wayward Genius Club one of the great Wayward Geniuses of history. He conducted a great deal of intensive research in a pub named the Jacob's Ladder, where votes for various Wayward Geniuses piled in. The angelic George Best was the easy winner, followed by the cherubic duo of Gazza and John McEnroe, but Maxted has cast democracy aside and unilaterally nominates the great Jean-Marc Bouvin. *Qui*? In 1980, he climbed K2. Not content with that, he then threw himself off the summit and hang-glided down. You cannot argue with facts like that.

Few surprises likely as top clubs make their entrance in Pilkington Cup

Andrew key to Wasps progress

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Bath and Wasps meet these days, the key component seems too frequently to be the referee. Both the last two league meetings have embraced controversial decisions on which, it may be argued, the result has turned. So Brian Campsall, from Yorkshire, knows the score when he steps out at the Recreation Ground today to handle the fourth-round Pilkington Cup tie between these old opponents.

There have been good reports of Campsall's refereeing all season and he will be aware that the England five-man international panel will be decided next week. Uppermost in his mind, however, will be to coax an attractive game from talented teams.

Bath won both the "controversial" league matches, including the game last season when Fran Clough, the Wasps centre, was sent off. Against that, Wasps are one of only two teams to have beaten Bath at home in the league. They will arrive with no great trepidation nor any expectation of the mud-slinging which has followed Bath's last two league games.

"We are convinced we have improved in certain specific areas this year and that we are in with a chance," Rob Smith, the Wasps coach, said. "What's happened in the past will have no effect on how we approach this game. It's been sad for the viewing public that the last two games have smacked of controversy. The intensity is getting to officials and maybe we need to help them, whether with extra training, making them semi-pro or giving them back-up with cameras."

Whatever Wasps achieve will revolve round Rob Andrew, whose form all season has been so good. Andrew has displayed a zest for the game in strict contrast to those of his international colleagues who seek to rest from their labours, but his options will hang on the work of his forwards.

The lineout is the unknown quantity: Haag and McCoy on the one side, Kinsey and Shortland on the other with Clarke and Ryan roving at will. If Bath, seven times cup winners, can gain the upper hand, they may be three-quarters of the way towards erasing memories of their embarrassingly early departure last season at Waterloo.

Win or lose, seven of their players may meet several Wasps again on January 3 when the hungover CIS divisional championship is finally decided between South and South-West, the holders, and London and South-East. In the absence of Barnes and Hall, the South-West will be led by that stern competitor, Graham Dawe, and the forgotten man of Bath rugby, Steve Ojomoh, will play blindside flanker.

Bath said yesterday that tickets were still available for their fourth-round Pilkington Cup tie against Wasps at the Recreation Ground today. They will go on sale from 9 o'clock this morning, but there will be no cash admission at the kick-off time.

Not far from Bath lies Bridgwater, where the town is in a furore. One hundred years ago, the local rugby club was a power in the land; then it dwindled and, when league rugby began six years ago, Bridgwater and Albion were twice relegated before a grip was taken on the situation.

Now Bridgwater are on the crest. They have sold their Broadway ground and next season will move to new purpose-built quarters worth £2.1 million on the Bath Road. With the substantial, and contrasting, sponsorship of Nuclear Fuel and the *Bridgwater Mercury*, the Somerset Cup winners have taken the Pilkington by storm, winning three away games before the match today with Newcastle Gosforth, of the first division.

Seven divisions separate the clubs, but that does not stunt Bridgwater's ambition. More than 1,000 spectators followed Bridgwater for the second and third rounds, to Camborne and Clifton, and there will be no shortage of support at Kingston Park. The team flies north this morning, complete with a sports psychologist, and Newcastle will be acutely aware that, first division status or not, Albion are the club with the ring of confidence.

Another mass exodus will take the rather shorter route from Basingstoke up the M3 to the Stoop Memorial ground. Some 1,500 supporters are expected to cheer on the Hampshire club against Harlequins, beaten finalists in 1992 and 1993 and winners in 1991. "We are determined not to just roll over in front of them," Paul Bailey, the Basingstoke team manager, said, but with Moore, Leonard and Coker restored to the Harlequins pack, Hampshire's representation in the fifth-round draw on Monday will hinge on Havant's encounter with London Irish.

Wharfedale have thoroughly enjoyed their first romp on the national stage and will travel more hopefully to Otley than, perhaps, Henley to Bristol. However, Henley, leaders of the South-West first division, will be shrewdly led by Mick Poulson, 37 on Monday and a stand-off half who learned his business at Wakefield and Leicester.

Leicester, the cup holders, take to Blackheath a team unchanged from that which beat Bristol last week while Northampton will welcome Rodber back to their pack. He has at last recovered from the shoulder damage which removed him from the game since the England win over New Zealand last month and rejoins a pack in which Edwards plays his first league or cup game for the Saints.

SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST DIVISION (v London at Twickenham, January 3): Bath (unless stated), J Callard, P Holford (Gloucester), N Beal (Northampton), M Catt, A Lumsden; P Hull (Bristol), K Bracken (Bristol); C Clark, G Dawe (captain), J Mallett, S Ojomoh, R West (Gloucester), A Blackmore (Bristol), D Evas (Bristol), D Sims (Gloucester)

Treorchy aim to keep it in the family

BY DAVID HANDS

TREORCHY travel the handful of miles down the Rhondda Fawr today to the foot of the valley where Pontypridd — "probably the best team in Wales at the moment," according to Chris Jones, who with Clive, his brother, coaches Treorchy — await them in the fourth round of the SWALEC Cup. They are a year premature: barring a disaster the near-neighbours will meet in the first division of the Heineken League next season.

Treorchy, known as the Zebras, partly for their black and white-striped jerseys and partly from the stuffed animal head that adorns the clubhouse, have been the success story of the season in Wales: they have run away with the second division, and even though they were held to a draw by Llandovery last week, they remain unbeaten and require to score only another half-dozen points to be certain of promotion.

Being drawn against Pontypridd in the cup, though, will be a bit like playing a member of the family: eight Treorchy players have appeared at one time or another for Pontypridd (including Paul Knight, their captain) and the Jones brothers once carried out the same function for the senior club.

"There will be no pressure on us," Chris Jones said. "Ponty are firm favourites, so it's a chance for us to relax. If we win the game, great, if we don't, the most important thing is promotion." Relaxed is hardly the adjective which applied to Jones during his playing career, which included a motley assortment of dismissals and suspensions — twice for life.

"I was over-committed as a player and over-intense as a coach," he now admits. "Winning was the be-all and end-all." But as a born-again Christian, Jones now carries the rugby message into schools as a youth development officer, as well as preparing Treorchy's forwards. He, too, has earned his stripes.

Elsewhere in the cup, Pontypool go to Cardiff, where they have already conceded 78 points — in their league match in October. Mark Ring, the former Cardiff and Wales centre, now stand-off and captain of Pontypool, believes Pontypool will have to produce their best performance of the season if they are to upset the odds, but still thinks victory is not beyond them.

The potential giant-killers include Wrexham, against Newbridge, and New Dock Stars, who will be entertaining Llandovery.

Blackheath on brink of breakthrough



Skinner believes Blackheath has a bright future

David Hands looks at the re-emergence of one of the most famous clubs in rugby union

ALL of a sudden, there is a familiar ring to Leicester's December. For so many years, you could count on the three Bs in the Tigers calendar — Blackheath, Bristol and the Barbarians. Now fate has conspired to bring them together once more: Bristol in the league last Saturday, the Barbarians after Christmas and, today, Blackheath in the Pilkington Cup.

It is a happy coincidence that Blackheath, the "Club", have been drawn with the holders in round four. Their links are long — as old as 1892, when Leicester made their first visit to London and were trounced 37-0. Through good times and bad, the relationship has been sustained, though it is ten years since Blackheath triumphed.

But their first pairing in the cup comes just when Blackheath hint at turning a corner in their fortunes, which for so long have been depressingly flat for one of the most famous names in rugby.

Though no more than mid-table in the third division of the Courage Clubs Championship, victory over Rosslyn Park last weekend and a strong display earlier in the season against Coventry, who now lead the division, have helped blow a promising spark into a flame.

Moreover, they have in Mickey Skinner a genuine attraction — "Mick the Munch" even has his own video on sale these days — and an international of such recent vintage that the youngsters who largely comprise the club's first XV can be galvanised by his presence. Skinner's 21 England caps may have come from his days with Harlequins, but he can remember Blackheath beating Leicester — both he and Danny Vaughan, now the chief coach, played in the back row in the 1983 match.

"Blackheath will turn the corner when the players, most of them young pups, become more experienced and that's why the tie with Leicester is brilliant," Skinner said. "Our boys don't learn that much from playing in the third division, but they will against a first division club. If they perform, they may find out more about themselves."

Alan Davies, the Blackheath director of rugby, said: "The club as a whole has changed. It's become a much warmer, welcoming place. We have a women's section and have developed our mini section. We are going to have to make our own players for the foreseeable future and we want to make Blackheath the natural place in the area for people to come and support."

Blackheath will be interested to hear the report that two students from Westminster University are now preparing as part of their Masters degree course, which will concern itself with the marketing policy and project avenues of future development. Much of the future is in the hands of the players and whether they stay with Blackheath.

Only one player was lost last season — Grant Eagle to Leicester — but Davies said there were a lot of offers, some "quite lucrative", to his better players. They need to be able to see Blackheath improving, and feel themselves part of a successful unit, and today should indicate how far they still have to go.

Both clubs toured South Africa last summer and Blackheath found themselves watching one of Leicester's games. Davies said: "We want our players to feel the flavour of who they are up against, to know the individuals who will oppose them, as a way of motivating them."

Skinner is keenly anticipating an exchange of views with Dean Richards, his old England back-row mate. "I'm looking forward to it immensely and if the other lads see it gives me a buzz, imagine what it means to them. I've been telling them that this is our ground and we expect to win at home."

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	30	70	good	powder	fair	cloud	2	14/12
(Excellent skiing conditions)								
Obergurgl	45	80	good	powder	good	snow	0	17/12
(Fresh snow on a good base)								
St Anton	60	160	good	powder	good	snow	0	17/12
(Heavy snowfalls continue to improve conditions)								
Waidring	30	80	good	powder	fair	snow	-5	16/12
(Good skiing on all open pistes)								
FRANCE								
Chamonix	60	240	good	powder	fair	cloud	2	16/12
(Excellent skiing on freshly-packed powder)								
S Chevalier	40	90	good	powder	good	fine	0	16/12
(Good conditions on and off piste)								
Tignes	105	280	good	heavy	good	snow	-6	17/12
(Continuous snow and low cloud; excellent prospects)								
Val Thorens	100	220	good	heavy	good	fair	-5	17/12
(Good piste skiing on quiet slopes)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	50	300	good	powder	good	cloud	-3	16/12
(Good skiing on all pistes)								
SWITZERLAND								
Adelboden	30	100	good	powder	good	cloud	1	17/12
(Heavy snowfalls continue to improve conditions)								
Champéry	15	100	good	powder	fair	cloud	0	17/12
(Excellent prospects for the weekend)								
Davos	60	130	good	powder	good	cloud	-1	17/12
(Superb piste skiing on fresh snow)								
Verbier	50	150	good	powder	good	snow	2	17/12
(Good skiing although few runs open)								
Zermatt	25	180	good	powder	fair	snow	-5	17/12
(Many lifts and runs closed due to bad weather)								
UNITED STATES								
Steamboat	115	160	good	powder	good	snow	-8	17/12
(Excellent skiing everywhere)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

SPORT

Kite slips away as mistakes take toll

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA

ANY handicap golfer knows how to take an eight. Hit a poor tee-shot, miss the green, chip badly, three-putt and it is surpising how quickly the strokes mount up. Tom Kite, the 1992 US Open champion, knows how to score an eight, too. He has done it at least twice. The first occasion was in the World Match Play championship at Wentworth. The second was yesterday in the second round of the world championship here.

Kite's opening round of 73 at the Tryall Club left him down among the backmarkers, seven strokes behind the leader, Ernie Els, of South Africa. Kite started his second round as if intent on plunging even further down the field. He ran up an eight on the first hole at Tryall just as he had on the third hole of Wentworth's west course when playing Sandy Lyle in the World Match Play championship a few years ago.

At Wentworth, the damage to Kite's score was done on, or at least near to, the green. He took four attempts to get his ball to stay on the putting surface. This time, it was done on the way to the green where he had to hole a long putt to save his eight.

At Wentworth, Kite was short of the green in two. He then chipped four times and each time his ball rolled back to his feet failing to clear the tier that is such a feature of this green.

At Tryall, Kite's difficulties began on the tee of the 472yd hole, the longest par four on the course. He hooked his drive under a palm tree. It looked playable to Kite, so he had a go at it. In fact, he had two goes. Neither worked. The ball did not move. He decided to take a penalty drop, picking the ball out and throwing it, by now damaged and misshapen, to his caddie in disgust.

His fifth shot crossed the fairway, his sixth ended short of the green in an unplayable lie. Just to make matters worse, it was plugged, too. This time, he was able to drop without incurring a penalty and he chipped on to 35 feet past the flag. When that putt disappeared, he probably felt as though he had played 18 holes. He did, however, birdie the next hole.

Kite's fellow-American, Jeff Maggert, had a 67, an improvement of nine strokes on his first-round score and enough to make him the early leader in the clubhouse with a 36-hole total of 143, one over par. He had not found the wind to be as troublesome as did Peter Baker, one of Europe's Ryder Cup team.

On the inward half which lies alongside the Caribbean sea, Baker took 43, seven over par. It includes a seven on the par four 12th, where he hooked his drive out of bounds and three-putted. A round of 78 put him on 152, ten over par and last in the 28-man field.

Colin Montgomerie was in second place overnight after an opening round of 67 and he admitted that he was relishing the tournament: "I think my concentration goes up on demanding courses like this and I look forward to the challenge," he said. "Just like when I won the Volvo Masters last month, the important thing here is accuracy, and that's what I excel at."

The defending champion, Nick Faldo, had a first-round 70 to remain in contention while Gordon Brand Jr is on the same mark thanks to two late birdies. Ian Woosnam and Steve Richardson each shot rounds of 73.

The future and the venue of this World Championship, which is sponsored by Johnnie Walker, will be announced by the end of next month. The event is sponsored to the tune of more than £4 million and has established itself as a competition of consequence, even though Nick Price, Payne Stewart and Greg Norman declined to play this year and Paul Azinger was unavailable because he is having treatment for cancer.

In future, however, the event may be earlier than the third week in December, a time of year when players and officials agree is too close to Christmas. Johnnie Walker will probably continue their support and the event will remain in Jamaica, where United Distillers has just spent £90 million buying the local manufacturer of Red Stripe beer.

SCORES

FIRST ROUND: 68: E Els (SA). 67: L Mize (US), C Montgomerie (GB). 69: S Elkington (Aus). 69: F Allem (SA), B Faxon (US), D Frost (SA). 70: G Brand Jr (GB), N Faldo (GB). 71: C Rocca (It), F Couples (US), B Langer (Ger). 72: V Singh (Fiji), C Pavin (US). 73: S Torrance (GB), J Gallagher Jr (US), C Strange (US), S Richardson (GB), I Woosnam (GB), T Kite (US), L Janzen (US), D Love (US). 74: J Parnevik (Swe), P Baker (GB). 75: B Crenshaw (US), 76: B Hughes (Aus), J Maggert (US). 79: S Okuda (Japan).

EARLY SECOND-ROUND FINISHERS: 143: J Maggert (US) 76, 67. 146: B Crenshaw (US) 75, 71. 150: B Hughes (Aus) 76, 74. 151: S Okuda (Japan) 79, 72. 152: P Baker (GB) 74, 78.

Grace of Witt still second to none

Simon Barnes sees the darling of figure skating chasing honours in the German championships



Witt, whose triumphant return yesterday kept intact her Olympic hopes. Photograph: Jürgen Schwarz

THE performance was a triumph, nothing less, a triumph of grace under pressure. But it is the marks that count and they were no better than a qualified triumph: how can Katarina Witt, the world's darling, be second-best to anybody? But after the technical programme yesterday at the German national figure skating championships in Herne, Witt — at 28 more graceful and assured than ever — lies second to a grimly serious 16-year-old in a Heidi costume.

Tanja Szewczenko, showing the composure that only the very young or the most extraordinarily gifted possess, leads the women's championships by half a mark from Witt, who must set the ice alight in the free programme today. That, of course, is her forte. The point is that her Olympic ambitions are intact; to finish in the top three here is her first step towards the winter games in Lillehammer, Norway, next year.

A full afternoon's figure skating is an odd progress: like watching unending versions of Tretchikoff's *The Chinese Girl* — masterly technique allied to the most extraordinary poverty of vision. And one succeeded another; The Peachy Peasant, the Purple Reptile, Decollete, Spiderwoman, the Bacofoil Chicken and the Lautrec Houri. And then Katarina.

Witt has worn some memorably exiguous costumes in her time, their parts not always safely moored. But yesterday she came out with scarcely an inch of flesh exposed, all buckskin and black tights. She has been Carmen, she has been Maria, she has been a thousand sirens on a thousand frozen seas, but now she strode out in male attire.

And from the moment she landed the first big triple jump, it seemed that this was men against boys. She was Robin Hood, swaggering and macho, at least that was the idea. But it was clear that she was really Rosalind in *As You Like It*, a woman whose femininity is enhanced by the *Travestie*.

"Woo me, woo me," swaggering Rosalind, in her man's attire, said. "Woo me, for I am in holiday humour and like enough to consent."

The sudden transition from the callow efforts of Santa's Elf and the Flamenco Fairy, to the strutting, androgynous self-assurance of Witt was unforgettable stuff.

But then came the killer Heidi. All ribbons and puff sleeves. She was cute, in both senses of the term. The dress was sweet as pie, but Szewczenko had her game head on all right. And she skated and leapt with micrometer precision, as if the snare-filled surface of the ice gave as safe a landing as a mat in the gym.

It was the marks for the required elements that gave her the edge, scoring 5.6s where Witt scored 5.4s. Then Szewczenko dug her heels into the ice and stuck out her bottom — standard cute move — but her face was ice. It was a remarkable performance.

Today Witt will respond to this challenge with her skate-for-peace dance to *Where Have All the Flowers Gone?* Again, she is perversely rejecting what she is famous for — brazen, ice-boiling sexiness — but then, she is not a lady who needs to lay it on with a trowel.

Yesterday was a nerve-stretcher, and many fading champions have suggested that courage is a wasting asset. Champions acquire more nerves as they grow older — sometimes, the greater the champion, the worse the nerves. Witt's first performance in her comeback ended in an embarrassing tumble two weeks ago. Nerves, she said.

Yesterday, it was always going to come down to that first triple. That is the case for every competitor, but it was doubly or triply so for Witt, with the eyes of the world upon her. From the moment she spotted the landing, assurance and grace flowed.

Szewczenko will try to jump her off the ice today, an approach Witt despises. She looks on the aerial games as Pelé looks on the long-ball game of Wimbledon and their like: "Skating is more than sport," she said. "It is not all big jumps, as if you should only be there if you are 16 or 17 years old."

Today she faces the physical challenge of Tanja Szewczenko, the Justin Fashanu of German figure skating. She will be there to play the beautiful game, for she knows no other.

RESULTS: Technical programme: 1, T Szewczenko 0.5; 2, K Witt 1.0, 3, M Kleimann 1.5.

Smith in danger of being pulled from race

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

THE debt collecting agency sponsoring Intrum Justitia, Lawrie Smith's Whitbread Round the World Race yacht, threatened to withdraw from the event yesterday after the international jury stood by its original decision to award Winston, Brad Butterworth's American entry, with a handsome allowance for the time she lost turning back to aid the crippled Italian entry, Brooksfield.

The 21hr 28min awarded to Winston lifted Butterworth and his crew from fifth to second place in the leg and overall positions, and ignored the fact that the American yacht was 250 miles behind Smith's winning yacht, Intrum, at the time of the emergency.

Three other teams, Galicia 93, skippered by Javier de la Gandara, Chris Dickson's Tokio and Yamaha, skippered by Ross Field, joined Intrum in calling on the jury to reconsider the facts. They claimed that Winston benefited from better weather as a result of her delay, a fact that was not been taken into consideration by the jury.

However, in a statement issued yesterday, Marcel Leeman, the embattled committee chairman, read: "The jury considered all the evidence, including meteorological data and achieved performance of the yachts concerned, but decided that it should primarily concern itself with the period during which Winston was fulfilling her obligation to assist a competitor in distress."

Explaining its decision, Graeme Owens, an Australian member of the jury, said: "The gains that Winston made once she returned to the point where she restarted racing, were not material to the decision. It was Winston's good luck that she was in different weather conditions."

That cut no ice with Smith, whose yacht has been relegated to third place overall, three hours behind Winston. "We are bitterly disappointed," he said. "There is no way that Winston could have gained that much time on us."

This is the second questionable decision taken within a week by this jury. The first was not to hear a protest lodged by the race organisers against Tokio, Dickson's leading yacht, after photographic evidence suggested that her crew had dismantled its radar antenna from its position on the mast to reduce its effect on windage and heeling.

Johan Salen, the project manager for Intrum, said yesterday that these inconsistencies were having a detrimental effect on the race. Intrum was joined in this strong stand by Ross Field, skipper of Yamaha.

FINAL POSITIONS: Whitbread 60 class: 1, Intrum Justitia (L Smith, Eur) 25days 14hr 39min; 2, Winston (B Butterworth, US) 25:14:40 (includes time allowance); 3, Tokio (C Dickson, NZ) 25:16:39; 4, Yamaha (G Field, NZ) 25:20:27; 5, Galicia 93 Pescanova (J de la Gandara, Sp) 25:22:10; 6, Heiman Sahalidachny (E Pelon, Ukr) 29:18:29; 7, Women's Challenge (D Riley, US) 30:01:29; 8, Brooksfield (G Maisto, It) 30:10:26; 9, Odessa (A Verbs, Ukr) 33:01:55; 10, Dolphin and Youth Challenge (M Humphries, GB) 33:19:23. Overall: 1, Tokio, 50:03:07; 2, Winston 50:14:29; 3, Intrum Justitia 50:17:19; 4, Yamaha 50:17:58; 5, Galicia 93 Pescanova 50:18:41; 6, Brooksfield 56:14:03; 7, Women's Challenge 57:20:53; 8, Heiman Sahalidachny 58:01:02; 9, Dolphin and Youth 59:22:45; 10, Odessa 74:10:27. Mixed class: 1, Merit Cup (P Fehlmann, Swiss) 25:21:11; 2, NZ Endeavour (G Dalton, NZ) 25:22:57; 3, La Poste (D Malle, Fr) 29:04:59 (including time allowance); 4, Uruguay Natural (G Vanzini, Uru) 33:01:56. Overall: 1, NZ Endeavour, 50:08:19; 2, Merit Cup, 50:12:53; 3, La Poste 51:23:00; 4, Uruguay Natural, 60:13:08.

☐ Information provided by BT

Crawley powers on to century as England take control

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN PORT ELIZABETH

AFTER a single day's cricket at St George's Park here, England A are already in a strong enough position to contemplate victory over Eastern Province. Two factors conspired in their favour yesterday: Eldine Baptiste's hare-brained decision to put them into bat on a cracked South African pitch, and John Crawley's determination to play a substantial innings. At stumps, he was 150 not out.

Baptiste, the Eastern Province captain, should last night have sat alone at the reception for youth cricket wearing a dunce's cap. The pitch resembles an aerial map of the Mississippi Delta, with cracks sufficiently wide to accommodate a fountain pen, yet he chose to bowl, knowing that the home side must bat last on a surface which has already assisted the spinnners.

Moreover, his team had to field in temperatures of 95F, comforted only in the last session by the breeze which came in from the Indian Ocean. By then, Crawley, who had shared a stand of 153 with Hugh Morris, was dominating the partnership of 133 which he and Alan Wells carried into the second day.

A score of 310 for two gives a fair impression of the day. Only Mark Lathwell failed, neglecting to move his feet as he reached to drive Baptiste and finding that Pope, at third slip, was infallible. Wells was more fortunate later on, when Koen grassed an easy catch at slip. Other than that, the bowlers had little to grumble about, so sensibly did the batsmen play.

Once again there was a remarkable twist to the proceedings. The innings was four overs old when a power cut jammed the revolving sightscreen emblazoned by an advertiser's logo. It took 45 minutes and some jiggery-pokery by a ground attendant and the third umpire, who fiddled about with a screwdriver and a pair of pliers, before play resumed.

After the outbreak of gastro-enteritis which put seven players out at Johannesburg, and now this electronic mishap, the tour has not been short of incident. When it reaches Cape Town next week, play will probably be interrupted by a flock of golden eagles swooping to snaffle the match ball.

In this form, Crawley is an eagle among batsmen: imperious, detached, serene. His century was almost inevitable, which is not to say it lacked interest. What separates him from the common herd is not so much his vast talent but his knowledge of how to build, and pace, an innings.

If a ball beat his bat all day, nobody saw it. He has strokes on both sides of the wicket, and plays off the back foot as well as the front. He brought up his 150 from the last ball of the day when he flicked Baptiste behind square leg for his 24th boundary.

Wells, who resumes on 51, looks good for at least 49 more. Morris must have rued pulling Shaw, the left-arm spinner, to deep square leg as he surveyed the sunlit scene. Should they make 500 today, they ought not to have to bat again.

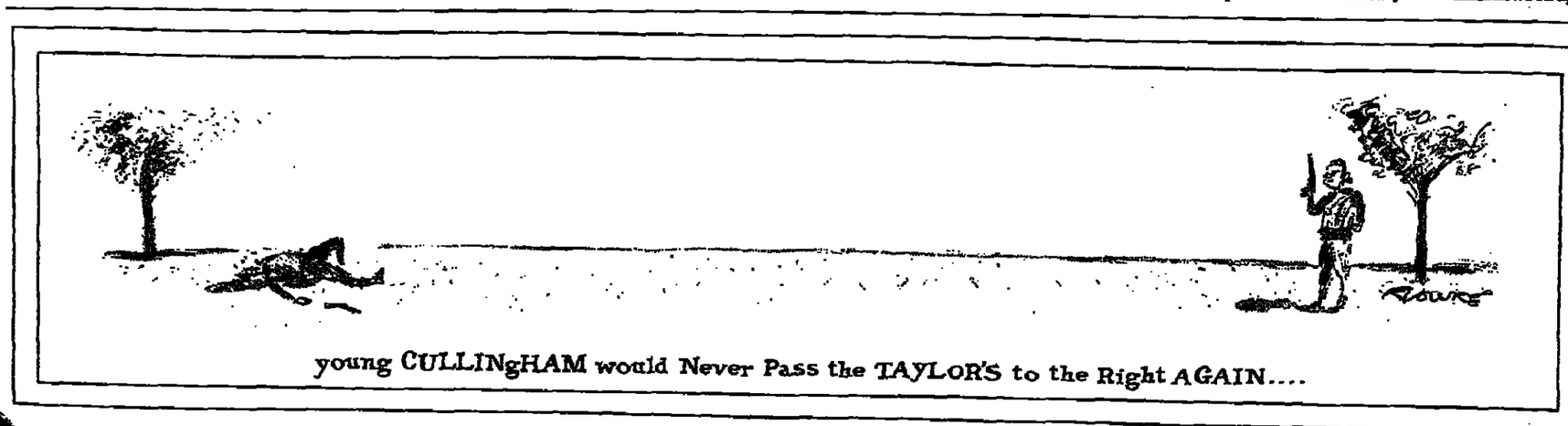
There was better news of Martin Bicknell, whose scan revealed bruising of the soft tissue near his ribs, not the bone. He has had a steroid injection and hopes to play in the one-day match at Langa, Cape Town, next Thursday.

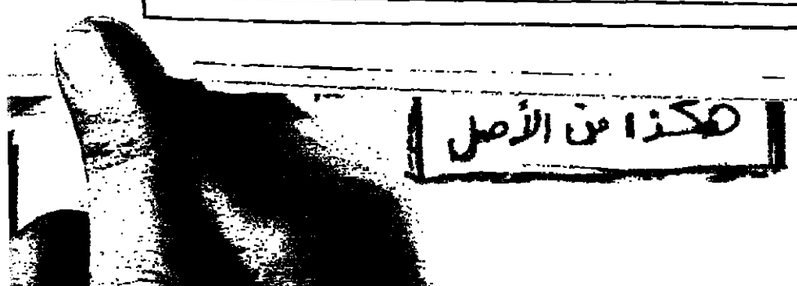
ENGLAND A: First Innings

M N Lathwell c Pope b Baptiste	5
*H Morris c Huckle b Shaw	78
J P Crawley not out	150
A P Wells not out	51
Extras (b 6, lb 4, w 6, nb 9)	25
Total (2 wkts)	310

M B Loye, T S J Rhodes, R D B Croft, D G Cork, M J McCague, M C Ilott and P M Such to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-177.
BOWLING: Lyle 16-2-64-0; Baptiste 19-3-53-1; Roe 13-2-49-0; Huckle 31-5-95-0; Shaw 20-7-39-1.
EASTERN PROVINCE: P G Amm, M C Ventner, L J Koen, S Pope, A Botha, *E A E Baptiste, I G Morgan, T G Shaw, A Huckle, R Lyle, G Roe.
Umpires: R Koertzen and R Noble.

Zimbabwe struggle, page 30







FOREIGN FIELDS

Gardens of the French Riviera

Creative colonists, page 11



SERIAL COOKING

A weekend of hectic partying

Frances Bissell, page 5



Your portrait in Old Master style

The copyists at work, page 8

STOCKING FILLERS FOR UNDER £1

Page 6

Rising like a phoenix from beleaguered Liverpool, a young singer is set for fame. **Alice Thomson** reports

A star over the Mersey

They chatter down the street in pairs past the abandoned tobacco factories and cranes holding up grey skies. Picking their way over the windblown litter, the girls pause to check their make-up before entering a vast, colonnaded neo-classical temple, their heels clicking on the tiled floor.

Wednesday night in Liverpool, and everyone is going to see a schoolgirl with a voice like a turbo-charged coffee grinder at the restored St George's Hall. Charles Dickens gave public readings here; Queen Victoria said it was as good as anything from ancient Greece. Now, under the marble gaze of statues of the Empire's dignitaries, Sarah Williamson, a 17-year-old girl from Anfield, is caressing the gilt chandeliers and raising the vaulted ceilings with her voice.

A striking figure with aubergine hair, wearing a black suit with her father's shirt, she lingers as 2,000 voices call for an encore. But it is midnight and she has to return the shirt, change out of the trappings of stardom, leave her voice behind and return to being a Liverpool schoolgirl until the next time.

The city can appear a bleak prospect to those coming up to school leaving age. Once the second city of a trading empire, Liverpool long ago retired from centre stage. Unemployment has crept up to 17 per cent (more than 50 per cent in the manual sector) and now its football pools industry is threatened by the national lottery.

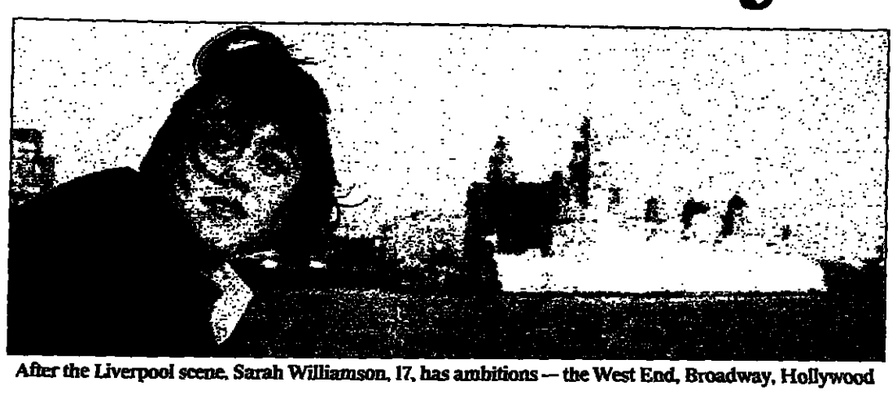
At a diplomatic dinner recently a Cabinet minister was empathising with Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Taking on East Germany, he said, must be like inheriting 24 Liverpools. Even the EC recognises that Liverpool is in desperate economic trouble, and is ready to grant up to £6 billion.

Men in grey suits have often assured Liverpudlians that things are going to get better; that redevelopment and renaissance are there for the taking. But so far the nearest they have come to renaissance is the neo-classical flotsam left by the high tide of their imperial past.

Sarah says this negative view is rubbish. What about the football, the Beatles, *Bread*, *Brookside*, *Letter to Brezhnev*, *The Boys from the Blackstuff* and *Shirley Valentine*? She points to St George's Hall, her favourite building, as evidence that Liverpool has more listed buildings than any other city after London.

Then there are the two universities, which in the last three years have doubled their intake to 40,000. Next year there will be the new Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, the brainchild of Paul McCartney, where Sarah wants to study. People may have written off the young in Liverpool, but they are writing themselves starring roles in a screenplay of their own devising.

The voice that filled St George's lives in a semi-detached house near Anfield stadium. It was a wreck when her parents moved in seven years ago. Now there is an ornamental garden with a miniature football pitch.



After the Liverpool scene, Sarah Williamson, 17, has ambitions — the West End, Broadway, Hollywood

Sarah, wearing rainbow-coloured pop socks, minidress and platforms and still looking stunning, meets me at the door of her home with her mother, who apologises for the deckchairs in the sitting-room. Mrs Williamson used to work for Littlewoods Pools; Mr Williamson, an unemployed docker, is taking their two sons to football training. Thomas, aged ten, has signed for Liverpool boys.

"When she was little she wouldn't say boo to a goose, but she wanted to go to disco classes with her friends," shouts her mother from the kitchen. "I loved all the glitter and feathers," Sarah says. "We used to go to competitions in Wigan and Manchester. I begged them to let me be an extra in *Brookside*."

> People may have written off the young, but they are writing themselves starring roles

When she was 14, an uncle gave her an old karaoke machine from the pub down the road. "From then on no one could shut me up. I used to sing to my friends in the school cloakrooms. Once we went down to London to see *Miss Saigon* and in our dinner break I stood up in Leicester Square and busked. I got £50 in half an hour."

She is neither a cutesy, Eurovision entry nor a blonde Hollywood chick. "At Butlins camps I was never sweet enough to win, and my nan used to harangue the redcoats," she says.

Sarah is more like a cross between Jennifer Saunders and Whitney Houston, with a touch of k.d. lang. Like all great entertainers, she can sing and dance and act. She has been inundated with offers from variety shows to five-star hotels to the less salubrious nightclubs — which she refuses. ("I would never go topless. I haven't got any boobs anyway.")

The youngest contestant in a "Search for a Star" competition, she got to the finals. "My family and all the neighbours came. I felt guilty when I just missed winning, and my responsibilities really hit me."

We go upstairs to her bedroom with its Beatles picture, ballet shoes and sequinned costumes strewn across the floor. Standing on a pile of clean laundry she sings, and again there is this extraordinary voice filling a tiny room. "This one is for you, Mum," she shouts.

She takes me down to the ferry across the Mersey, pointing out the newly renovated Albert Dock. "Some of my girlfriends have dropped out of school. They are up to all kinds of things with boys but they are mad. In a couple of years they might get a job in Burger King. The rest of us are determined we will make it on the stage, as journalists, or at university. When my father was made redundant I knew that I never wanted to be unemployed."

Sarah is nervous of being the first of her family to go to London. "My Auntie Pat is a manager for Littlewoods and she was moved to Birkenhead. No one else has ever left." But she is determined that she will play Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* in the West End, the mother in *Blood Brothers* on Broadway and, finally, be a rock star in Hollywood — while also becoming the latest British band to make it big in the States.

"My teachers all want me to be an opera singer but I wouldn't be seen dead singing those songs. My family think I should get elocution lessons but people would say: 'What is a girl from Liverpool doing with an accent like that?' "

We head for the Chiltern Stage School, behind a boarded-up greengrocer. Colette Fenlon, the teacher and fairy godmother figure in this story, spotted Sarah five years ago and has since fought off all approaches by agents until Sarah finishes her A-levels.

Upstairs, 25 children in hairbands and shellsuits are squawking Googlie, the Liverpool duck, to be filmed for the BBC. Lessons cost £1 and parents have to bring their children promptly. This is traditional showbiz. "I have 200 children here," Mrs Fenlon says. "Many parents are single or unemployed. The children learn self-respect, discipline and poise. I reckon about 25 will make it big."

Pinned to the walls are faded photographs of successful alumni. Lisa Watson, seven, wants to be a supermodel. "I know it is hard work but I can travel and earn money," she says.

After class, we go to the Williamsons' social club, where Sarah is practising for her one-woman Christmas show. Mrs Fenlon reminisces about her own early life in Liverpool. She was "Miss New Year", bursting out of an egg, but then the taxi driver who took her home proposed and she gave it up and had five children.

Sarah is different. She has extraordinary raw talent and her photograph is clearly going to be given pride of place on Miss Fenlon's wall. The latest and sassiest in a long line of Liverpudlians walking the international stage, she is a symbol, like St George's, of Liverpool's determination to regenerate itself.

JOHN HOULIHAN



In full flood Sarah, the new voice of the Mersey, sounds like a turbo-charged coffee grinder

Gasping for a breath of fresh country air

Zoe Young scents something nasty blowing in the rural wind

COUNTRY MATTERS

Everyone, from far-flung social theorists who like to send young offenders on budget-bashing holiday-cures, to hard-pressed commuters willing to travel from ever more distant shires to jobs in Britain's conurbations, seems to agree that a breath of fresh country air is good for you.

So it is disturbing news for us all that these days country breezes can carry things far more insidious than just the stench of manure. Lab tests on air sampled at various rural sites around Britain show rising levels of noxious substances which, if unchecked, could leave British country air as stale as our government's policy on the environment.

Agribusiness, urban industry and our technology-ridden daily lives all play roles in this emerging drama of environmental ruination. The lack of any public strategy to cope with the various plot elements ensures that it remains a great British farce, and one with no indications of a happy ending in sight.

The frequently demonised farming and forestry industries inevitably have a part to play, and rising levels of dust production, combined with more widespread aerial pesticide spraying, have increased levels of these pollutants. A smaller proportion than ever of the vast quantities of slurry produced by British cattle is being re-used as fertiliser, and the combined effect of this and its human equivalent, sewage, decomposing above ground adds up to a worrying excess of methane (a greenhouse gas) and ammonia (toxic, and smelly to boot).

Equally significant are the pollutants produced by the electricity and waste disposal industries. The increase in waste incineration has led to a corresponding rise in the levels of airborne heavy metals (eg, zinc, cadmium and mercury) and of the equally poisonous dioxins (industrial bleaching agents), while fossil-fuel-fired power stations have exhaled such volumes of carbon dioxide (another greenhouse gas) and of nitrogen and sulphur dioxides (contributory to acid rain) that their recent regulation seems insufficient and long overdue.

In addition to these problems, a link is emerging between some of these emissions and respiratory disorders that has echoes of the cigarettes/cancer debate of 25 years ago.

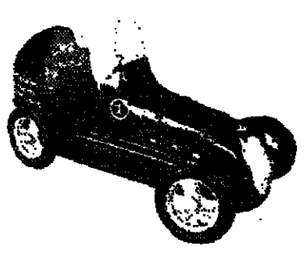
This speculation should be viewed alongside the until now tenuous links between our respiratory and cardiovascular health and the gaseous output of cars and other motor vehicles — upon which so many country dwellers rely for freedom and social contact. In a report entitled "Traffic and Health" commissioned by Greenpeace and released this week, Dr John Whitelegg of the University of Lancaster seems finally to have established a link between exhaust fumes and physical damage to those regularly exposed to them. His data, collected from people living at busy, urban roadside locations, have been screened to eliminate any possible distortion by other environmental factors which might affect the respiratory and cardiovascular health of his subjects (such as whether they smoke, and the effects of each individual's diet and exercise upon their physiology). They give solid support to what most town-dwellers must have known all along: that car fumes can make even non-asthmatics cough, set eyes and noses running, and are bad for one's general health.

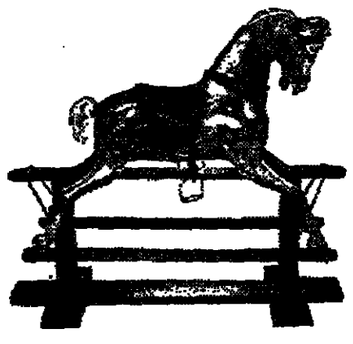
The human response to automotive pollutants in the countryside is as yet unknown, but the Warren Springs Laboratory's data, collected during 1990/91 in a variety of rural locations stretching from Suffolk to the Scottish Highlands, reveal low-level ozone concentrations frequently in excess of both their suburban and central London equivalents. Quantities of the airborne hydrocarbons similarly associated with the snarl of city traffic were found in two rural test sites by researchers from the University of East Anglia, although in concentrations low enough to add a slightly less gloomy brush stroke to our picture of rural air pollution.

While such limited experimental evidence cannot solve the emerging dilemma of contaminated rural air, it can prompt an investigation into where the multitudinous chemicals that are daily blown from our cities, roads and industrial estates end up.

Can we expect the "invisible hand" of the market that is soon to direct the railways, waste disposal and ever more essential parts of our infrastructure to be able also to protect us from the invisible consequences of unrestrained market forces: the pollutants which are permeating the countryside only slightly faster than people, fleeing their choking neglect of the air in the cities? If not, we will have to drive still further afield for a breath of fresh air.

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SOTHEBY'S
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Wanderlust takes **Peter Davies** on a leisurely journey by rail through Saxony and Thuringia in eastern Germany

Slow train to the past

As your train pulls to a halt under the high arches of Leipzig's Hauptbahnhof, you could be forgiven for feeling that you have stepped back 60 years into the world of the Weimar Republic. This cavernous rail terminal has a gloomy majesty which seems to shake a fist at notions of progress. It is only when you emerge, to be confronted by the soaring concrete tower of the university, that you are abruptly back in the 1990s.

The railway is the best way to savour eastern Germany. The network still preserves its identity as the Deutsche Reichsbahn (DR), distinguishing it from the west German Deutsche Bundesbahn (DB). As the train ambles east across the old frontier, between Helmstedt and Marienborn, the minefields and watchtowers have gone. But the transition is perceptible as the neat landscape of the west gives way to the greater informality of the eastern countryside. Buzzards and black kites swing and soar at will over empty fields. The forests of now disused brick chimneys which bristle from the Saxon terrain attest to the complete collapse of outdated industries.

Unlike British Rail, which often seems to be the sworn enemy of its customers, DB/DS is user-friendly in the extreme. Ask at any station about a destination and a few deft key strokes will provide you with a printout of train times, connections, the services you can expect on each train and details of any supplement payable. (By contrast, at Victoria's international rail terminal, after much official poring over a well-thumbed timetable, I was given quite the wrong information about trains from London to Leipzig.)

MAGNUM PHOTOS



Baroque follies of Dresden in the ornate detail of the Säulen des Wallpavillons (left) and the ruins of the Fraukirche

DS trains have not yet achieved the fabled punctuality of their DB counterparts — but their crews, largely composed of young women with a rakishly-perched crimson beret, work hard to make you feel at home.

Like many cities of the former German Democratic Republic, Leipzig has large areas which give the impression of needing a good scrub. But from a cultural point of view its prime interest to the visitor is musical rather than visual. The city's famous Gewandhaus orchestra has had, since 1981, a new home, the spectacular glass and steel casket of the Neues Gewandhaus, which faces the opera (Opernhaus) across what was, until recently, Karl Marx Platz.

Dresden, 90 minutes by rail from Leipzig, capital of the state of Saxony, boasts many splendid buildings (as well as the dramatic ruins of the Fraukirche, destroyed in the war). Its galleries are a must for the art lover. A Dm7 (£2.90) ticket gives entry to both the magnificent Old Masters gallery in the Zwinger palace and the Albertinum, which houses 19th and 20th-century art and a remarkable collection of figurines, jewellery and exotic artefacts.

Forty miles down the Elbe from Dresden lies Torgau. Its 17th-century streets and squares are, miraculously, untouched by war. Here, after fighting their way from opposite ends of the Third Reich, Soviet and American troops shook hands over the shattered centre span of the Elbe bridge on April 25, 1945.

Eating out in eastern Germany provides choices undreamt of a few years back. There is the usual international hotel restaurant cuisine, at prices comparable to Britain's. But do as Germans do, and go to a *Kneipe* (basically a pub, but with high standards of food and service).

In Leipzig's famous Auerbachs Keller, where Goethe set the drinking scene in *Faust*, I opted for a Dm15.50 (£5.95) Studententeller (student plate), which came on a wooden platter. An awesome array of smoked salmon, cheeses, pâtés, hams and Saxon sausages, it would have detained at least two ravenous students for half the afternoon.

Leaving Saxony, I went westwards by train into neighbouring Thuringia. I chose Eisenach as a base for exploring the beech, pine and fir woodlands of the Thüringerwald (Thuringian Forest). Crouching in the valley of the River Hörsel under the frowning battlements of the Wartburg fortress, this attractive town was the birthplace of Bach and the home of the Minnesingers, whose contests inspired Wagner's *Tannhäuser*.

Walking in the Thuringian forest does not require Alpenstock and boots. The Grosser Inselsberg, the range's second highest but most rewarding summit, is only 916m (barely 3,000ft) high. Yet from the top there are stupendous views over an undulating sea of forest to what seem the limitless plains beyond.

● *A 15-day Interail card (valid only on continent — check special conditions for Belgium) costs £209. Peter Davies stayed in Dresden's Hotel Astoria — room and breakfast, Dm100 (£76.90); elsewhere in various private accommodation, ranging from Dm30 (£11.50) to DM50 (£19.20).*

SKISHOOT/OFFSHOOT

Out of the sky, into the snow

Heli-skiing in Canada, **Graham Duffill** braves the risks for some of the most exhilarating runs on earth



Touchdown for a run in the powder. Heli-skiing "is the ultimate in skiing. Probably a greater percentage of skiers die than on normal pistes"

The helicopter swooped down for lunch. "I'm having the blast of my life," cried Doc. That evening, Doc played his jazz piano as we relaxed in the Panorama ski lodge, one day and a few thousand vertical feet of fresh powder snow under our boots. To find this sort of powder without a helicopter, you either have to strike it lucky or be prepared to climb mountains.

If you have £3,000 to spend for a week's ski holiday, all this can be yours. The invention of the Atomic Fat Boys, each ski half as wide again as a normal ski, means that a basic parallel skier can float through the powder with the elegance of an expert.

Some people have to learn the hard way, such as the Californian multimillionaire Ned Damon and his family, who learnt to ski by heli-skiing. "I was heli-skiing for a week with Canadian Mountain Holidays and Mr Damon's son looked really miserable," says Steve Orchin, who manages the Canadian Pacific Hotels' Banff Springs Hotel. "I asked him what his problem was and he said he had dropped out of school. Lessons, teachers, everything was boring. He wanted to go skiing instead and have fun. So his father bought him a million vertical feet of heli-skiing — that is, ten weeks of heli-skiing. Every day he had to get up and go. As soon as he returned from the holiday he signed up for school again."

Heli-skiing, until you are advanced and can dance around trees, is on glaciers. And glaciers are ice sheets broken by crevasses.

For me, it was the trees that presented the most danger. The tree trunk gets warmed by the sun and melts the snow around it, producing tree wells. Ski too close to a big tree and you can fall into the tree well, and you can drown in a 20ft-deep pit of powder snow that is like inhaling water.

Then there are the "mushrooms" that build up on tree branches: a ton or two of snow perched waiting to fall on to an unsuspecting skier, and you have to get your avalanche bleeper out to find him, hoping that you can dig him out before he turns blue.

Heli-skiing is the ultimate in skiing. Thousands do it and thousands return; probably a greater percentage of skiers die than on normal pistes.

Canada's heli-skiing is run largely by Austrians. Hans Gmoser, who was born in Linz but moved to Canada as a guide, founded the sport by starting heli-skiing in the Bugaboo mountains in southeastern British Columbia in April, 1965. Nine years later, he opened the Cariboo lodge and the Bobbie Burns lodge, and now controls eight areas.

Another Austrian, Mike Wiegele, entered the market with heli-skiing from Blue River, which is accessed by the airport at Camloops, a two-hour flight from Vancouver. He started the World Powder Eight Championships. Working in pairs, the skiers descend one behind the other to make perfect figure-of-eight shapes in the snow.

> You can drown in a 20ft-deep pit of powder snow

Venturing around Canada in pursuit of perfect snow, there is one place that went to the bottom of the list, and that is one of the best known, Whistler/Blackcomb. These are two great mountains, where the piste can be bullet-proof ice at the top and slushy at the bottom. It does not help that the lifts close at 3pm until February 1, and 3.30pm thereafter. They say it is to give time to clear the slopes, but in March, when it is light until early evening, it seems unnecessary to have to dash after lunch to catch the last lift.

Whistler does, however, provide one particular source of fun for those who enjoy watching others make fools of themselves on skis. It is extremely popular with the Japanese, presumably because it is a relatively short hop over the Pacific.

The Japanese I saw on the slopes dressed with style, and always expensively. Their skiing, in general, seemed to need a little more practice, and finding the lost Japanese is, I suspect, the real reason why the lifts have to close so early. Coming down the mountain in the afternoon became another sport in itself, as I slalomed round some of the most expensive ski suits you will ever find lying across the slopes.

The Japanese love of skiing and sense of fun is infectious. They were great fun to ski with and to watch as they got into the most ridiculous tangles or crashed and burnt at great speed, but always emerged grinning. I don't think they ever hurt themselves and I'm sure they never complained.

On the other side of the Rockies, the ski area around Banff is most popular with the British, attracting about 70 per cent of the 4,000 who ski in Canada. From Calgary, you drive for just over an hour into a national park and the small attractive town of Banff. Many visitors stay at the imposing Banff Springs Hotel, a Victorian edifice that would not look out of place perched on a rock in Scotland. The nearest skiing is on Mount Norquay, which is just a couple of chairlifts and T-bars, but its steep face provides a handful of challenging runs for experienced skiers.

Sunshine Village is 20 minutes away by car and its huge bowl is hidden up on top of Mount Standish, which you reach by a long gondola ride. When the sun shines, this is a great playground for intermediate skiers, with skiing up to 9,000ft. Lake Louise is the main ski area, with skiing on three faces. There are 13 lifts and 39 marked runs of almost every variation. The front face provides friendly intermediate runs cut through trees, while the back bowls are steep and good for experienced skiers. The lake, from which the area takes its name, is one of the great natural spectacles of the world. In winter an ice cliffs drop into the vast frozen lake, around which scenes from *Dr Zhivago* were shot.

Once called Emerald Lake, because of the green tint from glacial silt, it was renamed in 1884 in honour of Queen Victoria's fourth daughter. Now it is dominated by the spectacular Château Lake Louise. "As we can't export the scenery, we'll have to import the tourists," it was decided when the hotel was built, and the château now attracts 18,000 guests each winter.

● *Canadian Tourist Board: 071-258 6346. Ski Scott Dunn organises heli-ski holidays with Mike Wiegle from £2,700 (081-767 0202). Crystal (081-399 5144) offers a week's holiday in Banff from £535 including flights. "American Independence (0371 874848) offers a week in Banff from £539 with flights; a week in the Château Lake Louise begins at £699, two weeks at £950 with flights; a week at Château Whistler from £759, two weeks £1,000 with flights.*



AN EPIC VOYAGE

AN EXPEDITION JOURNEY FROM TIERRA DEL FUEGO TO FLORIDA AND THE UK
A voyage of discovery from the Argentinian town of Ushuaia 'the town at the end of the world' along the Pacific South American Coast and through the Panama Canal and Caribbean Sea to Florida. The journey continues with an Atlantic crossing by way of Bermuda and the Azores to Plymouth
18 March-1 May or 21 May 1994

Following the exceptional response to an earlier offer to sail from Ushuaia to Plymouth via the Islands of the South and North Atlantic aboard the 'Sergey Vavilov', we have made arrangements with her sister ship the 'Akademik Ioffe' to undertake a sailing from the Southern tip of South America to Florida and the UK. The 'Akademik Ioffe' will, like her sister ship, be finishing an expedition cruising season in Antarctica and returning to Europe.

As this is a positioning voyage the prices offered are much lower than you would expect to pay for such a journey. The itinerary has been planned to appeal to genuine travellers, including as it does some of the most beautiful and interesting points along the long South American Pacific coast line, the Galapagos Islands and the Central Americas.

THE AKADEMIK IOFFE

The vessel was constructed in Finland's Holming Shipyard in 1987 as an ice-rated ocean going research vessel, commissioned by the Academy of Sciences in Moscow. Her structure is that of an efficient, working ship, albeit a comfortable one. Her passengers were typically the elite of the Soviet research world. In 1991, with the shift in Russian policies and finances, the Ioffe was refitted and relaunched as an expedition cruise vessel.

There are five categories of cabin and accommodation for up to 75 passengers. All cabins have an outside view and most have en-suite bathrooms. There is a daily housekeeping and a laundry service. Meals are waiter served in the dining room and a fully stocked bar operates in the lounge. The ship's crew is Russian, assisted by a professional expedition cruise staff from around the world.

The vessel is well equipped with highly sophisticated communication, navigation and monitoring systems and the command bridge is open to passengers. Other facilities include a small library and shop, heated swimming pool, sauna and gymnasium.



THE ITINERARY



London-Buenos Aires	Fly via Madrid.
Buenos Aires	Arrive and stay overnight at a centrally located first class hotel.
Buenos Aires-Ushuaia	Morning flight to Ushuaia and embark on the 'Akademik Ioffe'. Sail in the evening along the Beagle Channel.
At sea	
Puerto Natales	See some of the spectacular sights of the Magallanes region.
Puerto Natales	Optional full day excursion to Torres del Paine National Park.
Cruising around the islands and along the fjords	Explore the San Raphael Glacier or walk along the shore of Puerto Eden.
At sea	
Puerto Montt	Explore this beautiful Chilean Lake District.
Cruising along the Chilean Coast	
Valparaiso	Two days to enjoy this attractive city built on terraces. Optional visit to Santiago.
At sea	A call will be made at Iquique for a day trip into the desert.
At sea	Heading for the Galapagos.
San Cristobal	We will moor for 4 days at San Cristobal, the easternmost of the Galapagos Islands. Our daily explorations, both planned and optional, will take place aboard smaller Ecuadorian vessels, capable of bringing us face to face with the exotic wildlife.
Puntarenas (Costa Rica)	Two of the next four days will be spent in Costa Rica an area well known for its many wildlife refuges and reserves, including the famous Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve.
Marenco Reserve	Sailing along the coast of Costa Rica we shall make a Zodiac landing at Marenco and walk along the nature trails looking for monkeys, Scarlet Macaw and toucans.
Balboa-Panama Canal transit	There will be time to see Balboa, the Canal and schedule permitting the nearby Panama City.
At sea	
Cozumel (Mexico)	Enjoy this lovely resort island located just off the Yucatan Peninsula. The beautiful beaches offer excellent snorkelling and for those wishing to view the ancient Mayan sites on the nearby Peninsula there will be some optional tours.
At sea	
Fort Lauderdale (Florida)	Arrive in the morning. Disembark.
Alternatively stay on board for the Atlantic crossing to the UK...	
Fort Lauderdale	Sail in the evening.
At sea	
Bermuda	
At sea	
Azores	
At sea	
Plymouth	Arrive in the morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

	Ushuaia to Ft Lauderdale 45 days	Ushuaia to Plymouth 65 days
Standard Cabin C Double cabin, bunk beds, sink, shared facilities.	£3850	£4950
Standard Cabin B Double cabin, bed and sofa bed, facilities shared with one other cabin.	£4295	£5450
Standard Cabin A Double cabin, bed and sofa bed, ensuite facilities.	£4580	£5700
Drake Suites Double cabin, bed and sofa bed, living area, ensuite facilities.	£5300	£6500
Lockroy Suite Large double cabin, bed and sofa bed, living area, ensuite facilities. Facing forward deck 4.	£6500	£7700

Single occupancy is charged at 125% of double rate.
Prices subject to surcharge

Price includes: Economy air travel London-Ushuaia, 1 night's hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires including breakfast, 42 or 62 nights aboard the Akademik Ioffe on full board, 6 shore excursions on 42 day voyage and 9 excursions on 62 day voyage, port taxes, services of Expedition Staff and Speakers.

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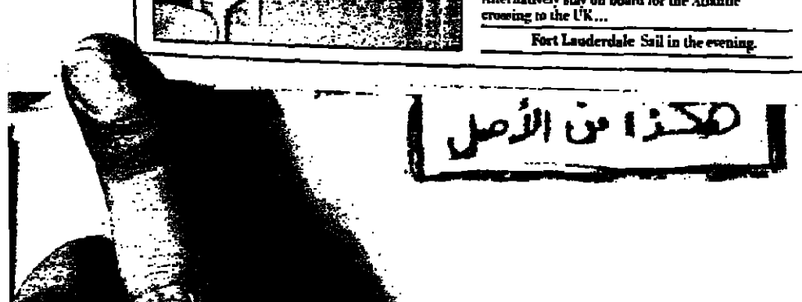
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هكذا من الاصل



TED DITCHBURN

A charged-up Louise Taylor (left) gets into the swing of boxercising at the Dolphin Leisure Centre, Darlington, County Durham — "a sauna-style sweat is assured"

Fighting fit with the gloves on



Boxercise involves hitting the punchbag with hands and feet

Louise Taylor tries out boxercise — aerobics and combat without tears

"Think about someone who really annoys you," urged my instructor. It had the desired effect: "Nice one, you've dented the punchbag."

The five-stone bag was suspended from the ceiling at the Dolphin Leisure Centre in Darlington, County Durham, where I was receiving an initiation in "boxercise".

A cross between boxing training and aerobics, it has been imported from the United States to become the North East's latest keep-fit craze.

Boxercise involves participants pulling on boxing gloves and kick pads before aiming their arms and legs at punchbags and speed balls.

Enjoyed by both sexes, it is proving particularly popular with women, and my 20-strong class was all female.

Preceded by a thorough aerobic warm-up, the workout consists of two-minute bouts, interspersed with advice on how to kick and punch to best effect. A sauna-style sweat is assured. And because punching stimulates the flow of adrenalin, boxercise leaves you on a high. Aficionados say it is addictive.

It is also an excellent all-over body exercise — everything, especially arms, ached the next day. Mine were so unaccustomed to such exertion that I struggled to manipulate notebook and pen while interviewing Mike Guest, a Dolphin Centre duty manager and the man in charge of boxercise, after the session.

His wife, Stephanie, 27, started boxercising shortly after the birth of their daughter, now 15 months old. "It keeps you fit and relieves the stress," she says. "You don't necessarily have to be tough. Anyone can do it."

Almost everybody who does loses a few pounds, along with plenty of tension. As Sean Carr, assistant manager at the Dolphin Centre, says: "There is no better way of relieving the pressure of a tortuous day than to bash a punchbag. It is tremendously therapeutic."

But boxercise is more than just a fun way of mentally and physically defunking yourself. An added bonus is the acquisition of self-defence skills. Mr Guest explains: "It increases women's confidence, not just because they look and feel better but because they know how to defend themselves. After a ten-week course, nine times out of ten a woman would be able to throw a punch good enough to enable her to escape from an attacker. Punching is more about technique than physical power. You need not be big to really belt someone. Most men would be surprised just how hard trained girls can punch."

Mr Guest believes the Dolphin Centre boasts the only boxercise room at a British leisure complex. He is surprised that a pastime which swept the US in the late 1980s has taken so long to catch the British imagination.

Even his local sports shop in Darlington wondered what to sell when women called in enquiring about boxercise kit. Intrigued, and sensing a lucrative new line, they dispatched a representative to the US on a reconnaissance mission.

"At the moment women wear trainers, leggings and T-shirts or leotards," Mr Guest says. "But in America boxercise is very fashionable, and I think it will become more trendy over here, with the women maybe wearing boxing boots and special tops. I'd like to run a mixed masterclass course at some stage, and I think that would make people really fashion conscious."

The sports shops had better get stocked up, because Mr Guest is being inundated with applications for his next women's course and a men's programme beginning early in January.

Those enrolled on the latter can pretend they are Mickey Rourke, the American actor who first popularised boxercise by using it as a sure-fire way to get fit fast for sex-symbol roles.

Not that you need a star's physique — or bank balance. Mr Guest first tried out boxercise in his back garden and garage. All that is required is a punchbag and gloves. He has since taught women aged between 16 and 40, and supervises men on the wrong side of 50.

"It is a very good cardiovascular exercise: your heart benefits," he says. "People of virtually any size or shape can do it, and unlike high-impact aerobics, you don't risk damaging your knees and ankles. The only thing people complain of is sore hands and wrists, but they can always be bandaged up beforehand."

FIRST ROUND

☐ Ten-week course at Dolphin Leisure Centre, Darlington, County Durham (0325 388406) costs £14 or £1.40 per session. Gloves, pads and bandages are provided free of charge. Seymour Leisure Centre, Seymour Place, London W1 (071-402 5795) also runs boxercise courses. For further information about courses around the country ring Fitness Professionals (081-849 3567), Asset (071-580 4451) or Move It (071-388 1277).

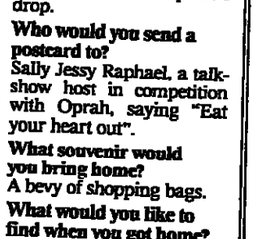
☐ Kit: almost anything goes but trainers are compulsory. Most people wear leggings and T-shirts, leotards or shorts/tracksuit.

☐ No age, height or weight restrictions but anyone with a history of heart problems should consult a doctor first.

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

RUPAUL

Drag queen



Where would you go?
Paris, when the designers are showing their collections — to do lots and lots of shopping. The only sights I'd need to see are Chanel, Mugler, Lagerfeld and Lacroix.

How would you get there?
On Concorde from New York, where I live.

Where would you stay?
At the Ritz — everything must be fit for a queen.

Who would be your perfect companion?
Oprah Winfrey because she's got so much money. We'd go shopping for both of us. I am the perfect shopping companion because I have perfect taste. I'd say yes, yes, yes to the cream-coloured slacks and no, no, no to the ruffled green taffeta.

What essential piece of clothing or kit would you take?
Five empty Louis Vuitton trunks to carry all my clothes back in.

What medicines would accompany you?
All of my cosmetics, which are medicines to me.

What would you have to eat and drink?
As I am on the Supermodel Diet, I would have a Tic-Tac for breakfast and lunch and Evian water for dinner. I have to admit sometimes I'll take a bite of a cheeseburger, but I never swallow.

Which books would you take to read?
Books about my heroines: *Naomi, the Rise and Rise of the Girl from Nowhere*, the story of supermodel Naomi Campbell; *Secrets of a Sparrow*, the Diana Ross biography; and *A Woman Named Jackie*, which is about Jackie Onassis.

What music would you listen to?
My album, *Supermodel Of The World*, and Diana Ross.

What would you watch on television?
Style with Elsa Klensch, a CNN programme all about fashion and style.

What film would you watch?
Mahogany, the Diana Ross epic. It's a story of the rise and fall of a supermodel. I'd also watch *Grease*, which I love because it's so camp, and *Mommie Dearest* because it is a fashion feast.

Would you play any games or sport?
Pin the brooch on the Gucci handbag.

What luxury would you take?
Some Crabtree & Evelyn milk bath for my aching feet after so much shopping.

What piece of art would you like to look at?
The actor Billy Baldwin.

Who would be your least welcome guest?
Steadman, Oprah's fiancé, because he would be in the way and distract us from our shopping.

What three things would you leave behind?
My bills, my bank statements and my work schedule for the following week.

What three things would you most like to do?
Shop, shop and shop till I drop.

Who would you send a postcard to?
Sally Jessy Raphael, a talk-show host in competition with Oprah, saying "Eat your heart out".

What souvenir would you bring home?
A bevy of shopping bags.

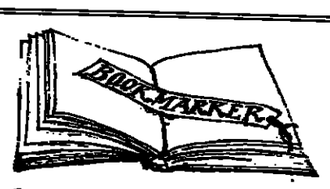
What would you like to find when you got home?
A letter from Barneys New York saying, "Congratulations! We have awarded you a gift certificate for unlimited shopping."

Interview by ***Rosanna Greenstreet***

● RuPaul's Christmas Ball *can be seen at 10pm on Thursday, December 23 on Channel Four.*

What the papers said: **Derwent May's** bookbuyers' guide

Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews appearing in national broadsheet newspapers.



3/5 Gordon's brandy: The reviewers of John Pollock's *Gordon: The Man Behind the Legend* (Constable, £19.95) had almost as much to say about Lytton Strachey as they did about the new biographer. In *The Sunday Times*, John Carey wrote that "unlike Strachey's caricature of Gordon of Khartoum in *Eminent Victorians*", Pollock's book was "never supercilious" and left Gordon "looking like a giant". In *The Daily Telegraph*, Field Marshal Lord Carver said that Pollock "demolishes the scoffers, of whom Strachey was one of the most influential". But both these reviewers would have agreed with J.D.F.Jones in *The Financial Times* that Gordon was "a rum cove".

Jones called the new book "a respectful, cautious biography, untouched by Strachey's elegant intelligence", and dwelt on Strachey's charge that Gordon would sometimes seal himself in his tent "with an open Bible and an open bottle of brandy". Pollock, he decided, "convincingly argues against the liquor at the price of conceding that Gordon was a dangerous *smoker*". In *The Times*, Ian McIntyre observed, among other curious behaviour, that "Gordon thought he had located the Garden of Eden in the Seychelles", and that "on ceremonial occasions he would hold his hat in front of his dazzling array of medals. But when the end came, and he confronted the Mahdi's followers on the steps of his palace in Khartoum, he tore open his tunic and said 'Strike! Strike hard!'" Gordon, McIntyre concluded, was "a much more eminent Victorian than poor giggly Lytton Strachey could possibly understand".
Col cms: 206

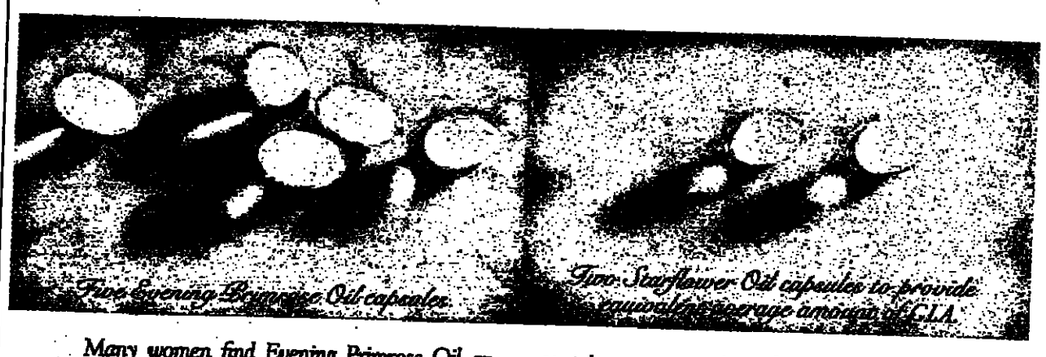


4/5 Updike and at 'em: Poetry reviewers are good at being grudging: they can put a poet down even as they praise him. Two were like that with John Updike's *Collected Poems* (Hamish Hamilton, £20). In *The Sunday Times* Sean O'Brien began by saying, with extreme caution, that "it contains a good deal of highly competent work, and enough that is striking or memorable to leave most people who had written nothing else thinking they'd used their time wisely". By the end he was acknowledging that it was "a rich and surprising Collected" (but he still had to add "for which Updike can probably be forgiven"). Peter Forbes in *The Guardian* declared that "his technique is a competent pastiche of dozens of others". Then he admitted that the book was "the most readable collection of poems I've seen for some time" and that Updike was "like Nature, tasteless, abundant, reckless, cheerful" (a phrase he quoted from one of Updike's own poems).

Jay Parini in *The Independent on Sunday* was much more spontaneous and generous. He wrote that "everything turns to metaphor beneath Updike's swiftly moving pen". As an example of the poet's gift for striking the right note with wit and whimsy, Parini quoted his poem "Sunday Rain": "The window screen/ is trying to do/ its crossword puzzle/ but appears to know/ only vertical words". The poems, in sum, were "genial and sophisticated" with "a wonderful tactile quality".
Col cms: 117

2/5 Wherever Ambler?: The new book by the thriller-writer Eric Ambler is called *The Story So Far* (Weidenfeld, £14.99) — but the title is "almost baffling", said David Holloway in *The Daily Telegraph*, Jessica Mann in *The Sunday Telegraph* described its contents: "several disappointing short stories" interleaved with three "passages of autobiography" in "detached, dispassionate prose". In *The Times*, Christina Koning quoted Ambler's remark, "A popular novelist should keep himself to himself", and commented: "This he has admirably done."
Col cms: 72

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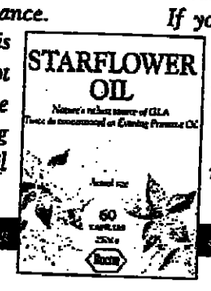
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Tricks of the trade for high fryers

DISH OF THE DAY

Chef: Michael Golowicz, 42.

Born: London, son of a Polish chef.

Restaurant: September Brasserie, 15-17 Queen Street, Blackpool FY1 1PU (0253 23282), above a hairdressing studio run by his wife, Pat.

Past: Trained at Le Coq d'Or, The Savoy and Les Ambassadeurs Club in London, and the Sydney Opera House. In four years, since opening, has confounded those who said it was the wrong venture in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Present: Initially, did everything himself, including waiting and washing up. Now has more staff but "if I'm not here, we don't open".

Personal: Relaxes by playing golf, walking, running and reading cookery books.

Future: Having auctioned his services for "Dine-a-mite", is looking forward to cooking dinner for six in a private home.

Dish: Irish brown trout, boned and stuffed with duxelle of lobster, steamed and skinned and served on diced *provençale* vegetables with sea-urchin sauce, £12.95.

CLARISSA HYMAN



Michael Golowicz confounded doubters

JUSTIN SLEE





Mary Smith (left) shows off the result of her labours, while (right) Julia Llewellyn Smith gets to grips with the deep fryer — "done just right, fish and chips have a surprisingly healthy fat content of only 10 per cent"

In Leeds, **Julia Llewellyn Smith**, elbow deep in batter, learns the secrets of making successful fish and chips

In a long white coat and matching trilby, Simon Readman is standing warily in front of a vat of boiling oil. Bobbing up and down in it, like ships in a choppy sea, are a dozen pieces of cod and a mass of shiny, sliced potatoes.

Standing well back from the spluttering fat, Mr Readman starts to jiggle the pieces up and down with his metal fish-turner. "I'm shaking like a leaf," he says, wiping the trickles of sweat from his brow and the steam from his glasses.

Behind him, a line of men and women, looking like doctors on a tea break, are waiting their turn at the boiling cauldron. Some are laughing and joking, others, grim faced, are muttering the golden rules of fish frying. Cover your hands in batter to protect them from the oil, shake the chips around to keep them separate and remove them when the sizzle sounds different.

Fish fryers have come a long way since 1838, when the trade received its first literary reference in *Oliver Twist*, in which Dickens mentioned a "fried-fish warehouse". In those days, fish was cooked in open pans in the seller's home and then hawked from a tray or basket in the streets. Chipped potatoes arrived in 1865 from France, and the two combined were soon rivalling roast beef and Yorkshire pud as the English national dish.

In those days, fryers were at the bottom of the social ladder, condemned by the greasy odour of their trade to live in out-of-the-way alleys. Henry Mayhew records a conversation with a costermonger, who told him: "A gin-drinking neighbourhood suits best, for people haven't their smell so correct there."

Today the frying oil is deodorised, the fish smell is easily removed by rubbing the hands afterwards with a slice of lemon, and the fish-and-chips industry has an annual turnover of nearly £300 million.

The trade even has an academic qualification, in the form of a National Vocational Qualification that is usually assessed on the job. For those who turn to the trade later in life, there is a monthly course in Leeds, run by the National Association of Fish Fryers and taught by Ian Blamires, the owner of a successful chippie in Rothwell, Yorkshire, and author of an inch-thick MBA thesis on the industry.

Mr Readman, 21, from Cleethorpes, Humberside, has saved up £300 to attend the course. He is a business-studies graduate who, when job applications proved fruitless, decided to open a chippie with his fiancée's father. They chose fish and chips because of the fast turnover and the encouraging statistic that 51 per cent of the British have a chip supper at least once a month.

Most of his classmates have similar tales to tell. One is a casualty of British Coal; another was made redundant from his job on a production line. "We have had all sorts of people, from solicitors to accountants, looking for a change in career," says Mr Blamires. "It costs up to £20,000 to launch yourself into the industry, so most people realise it is worth investing £300, to make sure it is what they really want."

Others are there to perfect their skills. Hugh is moonlighting from his job in a soft-drinks factory, getting ready for the day he will take over his father's business. Nicola Moulton has been frying for six years. She has been sent by her employer, Winkies of Brightlingsea in Essex, as a reward for good behaviour. She raises her eyes and tuts as they hack a frozen fish into even-sized portions. "You get a much bigger slice in Essex," she says, sawing away at the rock-hard cod.

Daily frying practice just before lunch is the best fun, but it is only a small part of the course, which gives an exhaustive overview of every aspect of the trade, from which potatoes to buy (Cara and Desirée are the best for chips) to value-added tax and accounting.

Mr Blamires talks his students through the raw materials that compose the perfect fish supper. They debate the merits of cod versus hake and learn that only a novice would prefer fresh fish to frozen — only 1 per cent of the population can tell the difference.

They discover that beef dripping is used for frying in the North and vegetable oil in the South, where it is also the done thing to leave the skin on. They peer suspiciously at huge vats of condiment vinegar ("this stuff will take the rust off a car"), inhale the heady fumes of Drywite — a powder that prevents sliced potatoes from turning brown — and inspect magic potions that make mushy peas greener and batter more golden. They learn that newspaper is rarely used to wrap fish and chips any more, but customers do love those paper cartons with a pattern of fake newsprint.

Most important is the temperature of the oil. If it is too hot it will spoil, if it is too cool the food will end up greasy, having absorbed too much fat. Done just right, fish and chips have a surprisingly healthy fat content of only 10 per cent.

Such details are hammered in by Mr Blamires, who is trying to impress on his class that without vigorous promotion, not even the crunchiest batter can save the trade from the energetic assaults of burger joints, pizza parlours, and Indian and Chinese takeaways.

At the trade's peak in 1935, there were 30,000 chippies in Britain, compared to only 9,500 today, but they range in style from the basic corner shop to a drive-through service in Hull. "Burgers and pizzas will come and go," says the admirably slim Mr Blamires, licking the remains of the deliciously light batter from his fingers. "Fish and chips are loved by all ages and all classes. They will stay forever."

● *Courses last three days and are held once a month. The cost is £300 and accommodation can be arranged if required. Course numbers are limited to 12. For more details and booking forms apply to Mrs S. Fowler, New Federation House, 4 Greenwood Mount, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LQ (0532 307044).*

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WINE MERCHANT OF THE YEAR 1993/94

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Turbo-charge your glasses

Dreaming of a red Christmas? Try **Jane MacQuitty**'s suggestions

Even if your household, like most, prefers white wine, it is likely that at Christmas everyone will switch colours: festive foods are at their best with warming, turbo-charged reds.

There's no point in cracking open the grandest reds if your family is large and your budget slim. Similarly, scrooges should not sink to the gut-rot rouge level. Instead, choose all-purpose reds, whose warming spice and low price are doubly cheering.

The best red Bulgar on the block this Christmas is the 1992 Young Vatted Cabernet Sauvignon from Bulgaria's Russe region, exclusive to Safeway at £2.85. Its ripe, blackcurranty fruit, made by the same method used in Beaujolais, is equally good with turkey, beef or spiced ham. Another Bulgar is the plum and damson-stashed Sliven Merlot and Pinot Noir (Gateway, £2.55, Safeway £2.69, Waitrose £2.75).

Spain is starting to do well in the rock-bottom price red sector and the juicy blackberry taste of the 1992 Vega de Moriz, from Valdepeñas, north of Andalucia (Oddbins £2.79), will enhance any Christmas event. First class French reds under £3 are rare, so snap up the 1992 Domaine de St Laurent, Coteaux du Libron, down 30p to £2.69 until January 5 from The Victoria Wine Company. This vin de pays' chunky, tannic, raspberry-scented style is best with hearty foods.

Classy reds for special meals and visitors start, as with whites, at £3 plus. Great buys in this band include Tesco's bramble-flavoured own-label California Zinfandel (£3.99), and Sainsbury's delicious 1989 Copertino Riserva from Italy, whose spicy, herbaceous, cherry and marzipan-spiked fruit is tailor-made for festive fare (£3.95).

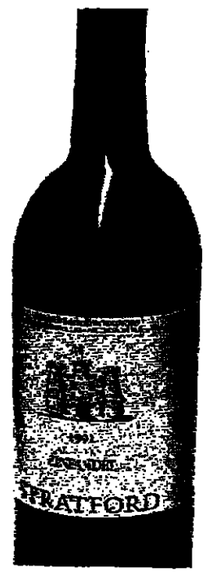
Although 1991 was not a great bordeaux year, Oddbins' declassified '91 clarets from a trio of top Médoc châteaux are a snip. Grand-Puy-Lacoste's '91 Pauillac is herbaceous and cabernet dominant, and Montrose's '91 St Estéphe, also £5.99, is firmer but still has chunky appeal. Finer still is Ducru-Beaucaillou's '91 St Julien, with its silky, cedary fruit (£6.49).

Don't waste fine claret on highly spiced fare; switch to new world reds, or those made from the Rhône grapes. Fulfilling both criteria is Oddbins' latest shipment of the 1992 The Catalyst from Bonny Doon, a Rhône-inspired California red whose grape content is all too apparent in its luscious, peppery loganberry fruit (£5.99). Even more spicy and assertive is the musky, bramble-scented 1991 California Zinfandel from Stratford (Majestic Wine Warehouses, £5.99). Francophiles should tuck into Gabrielle Meffre's delicious Crozes-Hermitage whose ripe, spicy, syrah flavours are a delight (Victoria Wine £5.29).

Top drawer reds include Sainsbury's plum and creosote-packed 1990 Château Rozier, a typical St Emilion taste (£8.95), and the magnum of 1989 Château Blaignan, a superior cru bourgeois from the Médoc, with a ripe, chocolatey style (£14.45).

If it's a big name you are after, think about top wines from lesser Bordeaux vintages, such as the '87. Tesco is selling 1987 Château Cantemerle whose mature, truffley, blackcurranty character is well worth its £8.99) as is the chunky, green pepper spice of the 1987 Château Gruaud-Larose (Oddbins, £12.49).

If you want your big names with a discount, Safeway has slashed the price of seven different bordeaux cru classé wines. Saint Julien's 1991 Château Beychevelle, down from £12.99 to £9.99, with its full, cedary fruit, is drinking deliciously now, as is the gutsy, blackcurranty flavour of the 1990 Les Trois Moulins de Cantemerle, the second wine of fifth growth Château Cantemerle, reduced by £3 to £5.49.

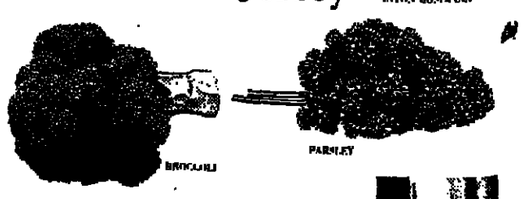


BEST BUYS

- **1992 Young Vatted Cabernet Sauvignon, Russe region, Bulgaria:** *Safeway £2.85.*
- **Bulgarian Country Wine, Sliven Merlot and Pinot Noir:** *Gateway £2.55, Safeway £2.69, Waitrose £2.75).*
- **California Zinfandel:** *Tesco £3.99.*
- **1989 Copertino Riserva:** *Sainsbury's £3.95.*
- **1991 Saint Julien:** *Oddbins £6.49.*
- **1992 The Catalyst, Bonny Doon:** *Oddbins £5.99.*
- **1991 Stratford Zinfandel:** *Majestic £5.99.*
- **1991 Château Beychevelle:** *Safeway £9.99.*
- **1992 Vega de Moriz, from Valdepeñas:** *Oddbins £2.79.*
- **1992 Domaine de St Laurent, Coteaux du Libron:** *Victoria Wine, down 30p to £2.69 until Jan 5.*



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The art of entertaining on the run

Frances Bissell's survival plan for coping with a hectic weekend of dinner parties and guests

I use the term "serial entertaining" to describe the times when two or three dinner parties, a drinks party and a buffet luncheon, for example, are fitted into a few days, and accomplished with ease. This is just the sort of situation many of us find ourselves in at this time of year.

The thought of fitting them all into little more than a long weekend might seem terrifying, but it is not, I promise. In fact, it involves much less of the boring work than if you were to spread out your entertaining over several weeks. By boring, I mean polishing the cutlery, dusting the house, cleaning the bathroom, polishing the furniture, cleaning the windows, doing the flowers. Have one big cleaning bash before you start, and the place will need only a touch-up between parties.

With my plan of action, shopping can be kept to a minimum once you have decided on the main elements of the menu. This is where creative planning is balanced with careful economy. This might sound improbable, but with just two or three brace of pheasant, a large pumpkin and a whole salmon, you can create at least four different menus that require the least possible preparation time yet give the cook a great deal of creative pleasure.

This is a blueprint for you to devise your own scheme. You might want to use turkey, goose or duckling instead of pheasant, or base your puddings around apples or chestnuts instead of pumpkin; the same principles apply.

With the three main ingredients I have suggested, you can produce two dinners for six to eight people, in which you either plate the main course or present it on a serving platter.

The puddings can be made into individual servings or dished up family-style. The soups, too, can be served in either way.

The third menu forms part of a buffet or more casual meal, everyone helping themselves, and the fourth consists of small items to serve at a drinks party. They, too, could form part of a buffet.

Even after all of that, there will probably be some leftovers to be used up. For example, I usually cut up any remaining gravadlax, and stir it into freshly cooked tagliatelle with a little mustard and dill sauce. It makes a delightful supper.

MEAL SUGGESTIONS

Menu 1

Pheasant consommé with herb dumplings
Salmon fillets in coriander chutney, served with olive oil mashed potatoes
Pumpkin soufflé

Menu 2

Salmon and dill broth with a pastry lid
Grilled, marinated pheasant breasts, served with polenta and mushrooms
Pumpkin and pecan ice-cream

Menu 3

Sliced and cured salmon
Game crumble
Rum and pumpkin fool

Menu 4

Miniature fish cakes
Chilled brandade of salmon on hot grilled polenta
Potted pheasant
Grilled polenta and mushroom canapés
Individual pumpkin tarts, or pumpkin fritters

I have listed a plan of action which works well for me. I like to keep the fish and meat preparation separate and do all the pastry work at one time, usually later in the day. Others may prefer to make pastry early in the morning. Recipes for gravadlax, game consommé, terrines, rillettes, casseroles, soufflés and pumpkin pies are plentiful, so I have concentrated on the more unusual recipes.

PLAN OF ACTION OVER TWO DAYS

Cut up and cook the pumpkin. Leave some in chunks for fritters, and make a purée of the rest as the basic spiced pumpkin mixture.

Fillet the salmon. Joint the birds. Remove the breasts, and marinate. Remove the rest of the meat from the legs. Make the stocks, 20-30 minutes for the salmon, and a couple of hours for the pheasant. Cut six rectangles from the salmon fillets. Cure the tail piece as gravadlax. Save any trimmings.

Make game casserole with belly pork, pheasant and rabbit. Take out some pheasant meat to make potted pheasant, or use some of the uncooked pheasant meat with belly pork to make rillettes. Use fillets from pheasant thigh with rabbit saddle fillets and belly pork to make game terrine.

Make and refrigerate crumble topping. Make pastry for salmon broth and pumpkin pies. Make up herb dumpling mixture. Marinate pumpkin pieces for fritters in rum and honey. Make up batter for fritters. Make soufflé base. Make custard for pumpkin fool and ice-cream. Make ice-cream.

YIELD

From one 6lb/3kg fresh salmon: salmon fillets, salmon and dill broth, cured salmon, salmon fish cakes and salmon pieces.

From three or four pheasants: grilled marinated pheasant breasts, pheasant consommé, game crumble or pheasant terrine, rillettes or potted pheasant.

From one large pumpkin: variations on a pudding theme: pumpkin and pecan ice-cream, pumpkin pie, pumpkin soufflé, rum and pumpkin fool and pumpkin fritters.

Extra shopping: dill, coriander, chillies, potatoes, salad stuffs, polenta, rabbit, belly pork, pecans, mushrooms, cheeses, celery, fruit, sweetmeats, bread.

Plus: usual store cupboard, larder and fridge ingredients.

FOR the following recipe, use a large bunch of coriander. If you plan to serve a grand white burgundy with this, you may prefer to leave out the chilli. Walnuts, pinenuts or almonds can be used. Sometimes I use a mixture of toasted nuts and seeds that I keep on hand, such as almonds, hazelnuts, pinenuts, pumpkin seeds and sunflower seeds.

This is a flexible and versatile recipe, worth making even if you do not plan to use it with the fish. Mix it with mashed potatoes, or stir it into a risotto or pasta.

Coriander chutney
(makes about ½lb/230g)
1 large bunch of coriander
1 shallot, peeled and chopped
2 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
1 green chilli, seeded and sliced
3oz/85g nuts
extra virgin olive oil or walnut oil
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Shake the coriander. Rinse and dry it thoroughly only if it needs it. Discard any wilted stems and most of the thicker stems. Roughly chop the rest and put all the ingredients in a food processor. Process until it has the texture you prefer, coarse or smooth. Season to taste, and refrigerate until required.

The next recipe also works very well with cod or undyed smoked haddock fillets. It is worth cooking extra to make into fishcakes. Cut the fillet into six pieces of similar shape and thickness.

Salmon fillets with coriander chutney
(serves 6)
6x4oz/110-140g salmon fillets
coriander chutney
lemon or lime juice
olive oil for cooking, or use a non-stick pan

Skin the fish, dry it thoroughly and smear the chutney liberally all over the fish. Then let it marinate for at least an hour. Without lemon juice, the fish can be left for four to five hours, covered and refrigerated, which is why I leave the lemon or lime juice out of the chutney. Fish should *not* be left in an acid marinade for more than ten-15 minutes before cooking or the flesh begins to soften.

Just before cooking, sprinkle the fish with lemon or lime juice. Heat a wide, heavy frying pan over a moderate heat. Place the fish fillet in a single layer, cover with a lid or foil, and let the fish sweat in its own juices. It will cook in about eight to ten minutes, depending on the thickness and how well done you like the fish. Steaming is another suitable method for cooking the fish. Again, it will take about eight to ten minutes.

Basic pumpkin mixture
1½lb/680g pumpkin, freshly cooked, well-drained and still hot
4oz/110g light muscovado sugar
2oz/60g dark muscovado sugar
2tbsp honey
freshly grated nutmeg, ground cinnamon, ground cloves ground ginger and ground cardamom to taste

Mix all the ingredients together while the pumpkin is still hot. Cool and refrigerate until required. For ice-cream, make a purée, and mix with double cream, or a thick home-made custard, plus extra sugar to taste. For pumpkin pie filling, mix with milk and beaten eggs.

Rum and pumpkin fool
(serves 6-8)
12oz/340g spiced pumpkin purée
juice of half a lemon
4tbsp dark rum
5fl oz/140ml homemade custard
10fl oz/280ml whipping, or double cream, whipped

Mix the pumpkin with the lemon and rum, and leave for half an hour or so for the flavours to mellow. Stir in the custard, and then fold in the whipped cream. Spoon into glasses, chill and serve.



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The Roux with a View
London Underwriting Centre, 3 Minster Court, Mincing Lane, EC3 (071-617 5065)
More properly known as the hospitality suite of the London Underwriting Centre, this new Roux-managed restaurant above the City overlooks the Tower and the Thames, and is open to the public who book in advance. Roger Naylor, the head chef, was formerly at the Bafta Centre and Le Gavroche. Fixed lunch £29.50, including *kir*, canapés, three courses, and coffee. Open Mon-Fri, noon-2.30pm.

SUNDAY OPENING
San Martino
103 Walton Street, London SW3 (071-589 3833)
Constanzo Martinucci (aka Martino) opens every day in his extended restaurant, where he also holds classes to teach Japanese women to cook Tuscan. Specialities include spaghetti in a paper bag and fried courgette flowers. Lunch from about £4.95. Noon-3pm and 6.30-11.30pm.

SPARE OURS
Blushes Café
52 King's Road, London SW3 (071-589 6640)
Blushes does healthy option breakfasts, children's menus, suggestively titled cocktails and party catering. Reckon £4 at breakfast, £15 for a three-course lunch or dinner. Open every day 8.30am-midnight (Sun, 11.30pm).

HOLME RUN
PJ's Grill
30 Wellington Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 7529)
Sally Holme, formerly of Melange and the Café des Arts in Hampstead, has restyled the menu, introducing some less conventional specialities (*zucchini* fritters or creole fishcakes £3.95, grilled swordfish £8.50, lamb sausages £7.25). Pre-theatre menu £8.95, set lunch £12.50. Reckon £22 *à la carte*. Mon-Sat, noon-midnight.

ROBIN YOUNG

Spanish steps to a sumptuous Christmas feast

The festive tradition in Spain contains elements that date back to Moorish times

Four-year-old Damian Velasco reaches across the elaborately decorated tray of sweets and carefully places a tiny marzipan fish in one of the few available gaps, then leans back to contemplate his handiwork.

Damian is helping cookery writer Maria José Sevilla to prepare *la bandeja de Navidad*, or Christmas tray. Usually assembled on Christmas Eve, the tray is the triumphant finale to the Christmas meal.

"My mother always used to start the tray and then leave spaces for me and my brother to add our own little bits to it," says Ms Sevilla, who last year presented the BBC2 television series *Spain on a Plate*. "Once the Christmas dinner was over it was our job to keep the tray topped up every day until Twelfth Night."

> 'Many Spanish families have a suckling pig for lunch'

Central to the tray are several different kinds of *turrón* or nougat, a combination of sugar, honey and toasted nuts which goes back to the Moorish occupation of Spain. Everyone has his or her favourite — the hard, crunchy *guirlache* and *tortas imperiales* and soft fudgy *jijona*. There are sugared almonds and pine kernels, plump raisins and figs, and crystallised fruits.

The Sevilla family will gather in England this year. "Since my father died two years ago, the family comes to me," says Ms Sevilla. "We share Christmas with English friends so it is a mixture of Spanish and English with all the different generations."

The Spanish part of the festivities starts with dinner on Christmas Eve, traditionally the main Christmas meal in Spain. The meal will start with a selection of shellfish — "prawns, langoustines, lobster — basically anything you can afford", says Ms Sevilla. "People save up so they can buy the best at Christmas. It is a very big event. They call the period after Christmas *la cuesta de enero* — the January hill — because nobody has any money by then."

Next follows a soup. Fish or almond soups are traditional at Christmas time, but Ms Sevilla prefers her own recipe of a chicken-based consommé topped with tiny profiteroles stuffed with a mixture of chicken livers and pine kernels. "After this we always have a fish — usually a large bream baked in the oven with wine and a few little potatoes — and then two or three desserts. My mother always makes a compote of dried and fresh fruit and chestnuts. Then there's an apple cake and always some fresh fruit."

Turkey is not traditional in Spain for Christmas, although the Sevillas will be sharing one with their English friends. "At home we would start with shellfish, followed by a dish of cardoon [a relative of the artichoke], which is served in a light béchamel sauce," says Ms Sevilla.

"Many Spanish families have a suckling pig for lunch but we've always had baby lamb roasted with wine in the traditional Castilian way."

In Spain the Christmas celebrations go on until Epiphany on January 6, which was traditionally the night when the children were given their presents. The occasion is still marked by the *roscón des reyes*, or cake of kings, a round cake decorated with fruit in which is hidden a little present, such as a ring. "If you find it, you get luck for the following year," says Ms Sevilla. "You have to pick through the pieces you give to the younger ones so they don't swallow it by mistake."

The Spanish also mark the New Year with "lucky grapes", *las uvas de la suerte*. "Everyone is given 12 grapes and when the clock strikes midnight, you have to eat a grape for each chime," says Ms Sevilla. "It all goes fine until you start laughing, and of course everyone tries to make you laugh. As soon as it's over, everyone between 15 and 30 disappears to go dancing for the rest of the night."

Sadly in Spain, as elsewhere in Europe, the old traditions are dying out. "I think we're in danger of forgetting what Christmas is all about," says Ms Sevilla. "If you don't celebrate it as a child, when you grow up there is something missing."

DES JENSON



Maria José Sevilla with her son, Damien, prepare *la bandeja de Navidad*, or Christmas tray

Turrón de Alicante
rice paper wafers
6oz/175g honey
1½ tbsp water
4oz/120g caster sugar
1 egg white
12oz/350g almonds, skinned and split
grated rind of half a lemon

Line some bun tins with rice paper and have some circles of rice paper ready to place on the top. Heat the honey and water gently in a heavy-based pan until all the water has evaporated, then stir in the sugar with a wooden spoon. Whisk the egg white until it forms stiff peaks then fold into the honey and sugar. Stir gently over a low heat until the mixture turns to caramel, then immediately add the almonds and lemon rind and mix well. Pour the almond mixture quickly into the prepared tins, cover with another rice-paper wafer and a baking sheet and weigh down until set.

FIONA BECKETT

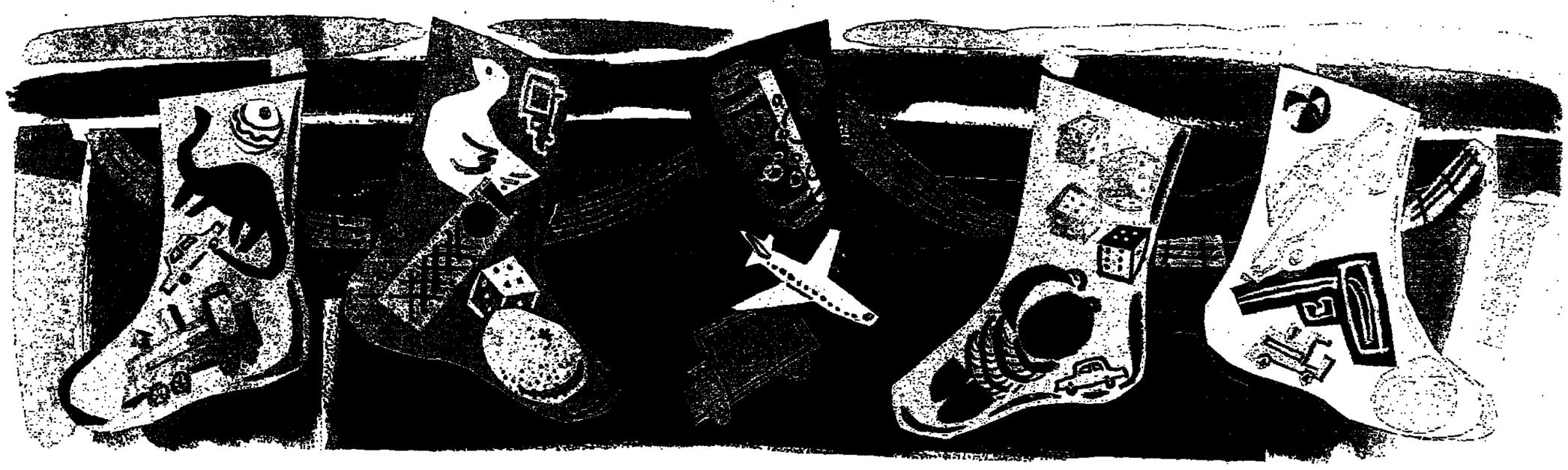
● *Other Christmas recipes mentioned can be found in Maria José Sevilla's book* Spain on a Plate *(BBC Books, £8.99). You can buy ready-made turrón and other ingredients for a Spanish-style Christmas tray from Products from Spain, 89 Charlotte Street, London W1 (071-580 2905).*



UNPEATED.
UNPARALLELED.

Jessica Gorst-Williams rounds up a selection of small toys that will bring squeals of delight without breaking the bank

SARAH McMENEMY



Santa's helpers for under £1

THE first Christmas stocking was not put out in the eager anticipation of being filled with gifts; legend has it that the stocking was drying by the hearth for one of the three daughters of a ruined businessman. St Nicholas passed by and tossed a bag of gold coins into it.

Things don't happen like that these days. But even in our chill economic climate, St Nicholas's namesake, Father Christmas, expects a helping hand.

Here is a selection of children's stocking gifts for under £1.

UNDER THREES

☐ **Dekkertoys take-apart train:** Four colours, 99p.
Toy Stack shops at Lakeside, Thurrock, Essex; Ealing, west London; Watford, Herts; Ilford, Essex; Edgware, Middlesex; Kingston, Surrey; Kenton, Middlesex.

☐ **Tuffies** primary-coloured plastic trucks, planes, cars and trains (about 3in across). 99p.
Toys 'R' Us branches countrywide.

☐ **Plastic yellow bath ducks** in three different sizes, 99p for three.
Duncans (children's stores). Tunbridge Wells, Kent; Hastings, East Sussex; Hamleys, Regent Street, London W1.

☐ **Baby fun nailbrushes**, 2in across, in shapes of a boat, crocodile, car, etc., 69p.
Boots, countrywide.

☐ **Magic painting book:** Brush on water and pictures turn from black and white to colour. Range of four, 45p.
Lorimers at Sevenoaks, Kent; South Norwood, south London; Purley, Surrey; Orpington, Kent; Tolworth, Surrey; Carshalton Beeches, Surrey.

☐ **Chubby paint brush** in bright colours, 89p.
Early Learning Centre countrywide.

☐ **Hard-back books** by Brown Watson, colourfully illustrated: *Snowy the Christmas Snowman; Santa's Little Helper; The Night Before Christmas; The Christmas Elf; Teddy's Christmas Present; Christmas Songs.* 75p.
County Bookshops, countrywide.

☐ **Hairy monster fun sponge** with a friendly look, 99p.
Boots, countrywide.

☐ **Giant dice** (1 in cube): Yellow, blue, green and red, 89p.
Farnworths at Lakeside, Thurrock, Essex; Bromley, Kent; Brighton, West Sussex.

☐ **Patchwork-style squashy ball** in neon colours, 2½in across, 69p.
WH Smith (about 50 branches countrywide sell toys).

☐ **Colour Play easy-grip pencils**, for young children to hold correctly, 99p.
Woolworth, countrywide.

☐ **Magic slate:** scribble then pull flap down and the slate is clean again. About 8in by 6in, 50p.
Lorimers branches (see above).

☐ **Head purse** in pastel colours, 3in by 2in, 30p.
Lorimers branches (see above).

☐ **Coloured sponge** in shape of bear, train, car, whale or pig, 69p.
Boots, countrywide.

☐ **Jungle colouring book** with lots of friendly animals, 99p.
Boots, countrywide.

☐ **Brown Watson's Start Right Elf books** range: *Little Lost Angel, Santa's Runaway Elf, Noni the Christmas Reindeer, Christmas Carols,* 75p.
County Bookshops, countrywide.

☐ **Magic Rainbow bubbles** (need supervision), 75p.
Farnworths at Lakeside, Thurrock, Essex; Bromley, Kent; and Brighton, West Sussex.

FOUR TO SIX-YEAR-OLDS

☐ **Cavalry sword and sheath**, 2ft-long, in red, yellow and blue, 99p.
Lorimers at Sevenoaks, Kent; South Norwood, south London; Purley, Surrey; Orpington, Kent; Tolworth, Surrey; Carshalton Beeches, Surrey.

☐ **Super fighter gliders** (range of 12), 20p.
Toy Stack shops at Lakeside, Thurrock, Essex; Ealing, west London; Watford, Herts; Ilford, Essex; Edgware, Middlesex; Kingston, Surrey; Kenton, Middlesex.

☐ **Pocket magnifier** for model-making and stamp-collecting, 45p.
Lorimers branches (see above).

☐ **Re-usable emergency services stickers** by Just Paper, with ten sheets of coloured paper. Good for learning traffic signs, 99p.
Woolworth, countrywide.

☐ **Tie My Shoe:** A sturdy plastic "shoe" with which to practise threading and tying laces, 99p.
Early Learning Centre, countrywide.

☐ **Donald Duck's beak**, pig's snout, dog and cat noses with whiskers, 90p.
Conran Shop, Fulham, London.

☐ **Number snap:** 52 colourful cards to help children solve simple sums, 99p.
Early Learning Centre, countrywide.

☐ **Kazoo:** Musical whistle, 79p.
Early Learning Centre, countrywide.

☐ **Milk chocolate drops:** Reindeer cane with sugar-coated drops and fleshcoloured or purple antlers, 99p.
British Home Stores, countrywide.

☐ **Rubber vehicle-shaped pencil sharpeners:** 3in-long. Range of models and colours, 75p.
Farnworths at Lakeside, Thurrock, Essex; Bromley, Kent; and Brighton, West Sussex.

☐ **Template** with Father Christmas, snowman, holly and bell, trees and sleigh with reindeer, 49p.
Woolworth, countrywide.

☐ **Sliding puzzles:** 3in-square put-in-order numbers and letters, 75p.
Fenwicks toy departments in most branches.

☐ **Doctor set** in case with eight "medical" items, 99p.
Forbuoys newsagents, countrywide.

☐ **Tinkle tots** baby dolls; four models, each with drinking bottles, 97p.
Toys 'R' Us, countrywide.

☐ **Dekkertoys Teddy Bear Playset**, with house, trees, car and motorcycle, fence and two model teddy bears, 99p.
Toy Stack shops at Lakeside, Thurrock, Essex; Ealing, west London; Watford, Herts; Ilford, Essex; Edgware, Middx; Kingston, Surrey; Kenton, Middx.

☐ **Plastic scissors** with rounded ends and smooth handles, 85p.
Early Learning Centre, countrywide.

☐ **Milk chocolate pig:** 3½in-high, with pink ribbon, 75p.
British Home Stores, countrywide.

☐ **Wonder nappy baby Dinos:** 12 different characters. Depending on whether model is "boy" or "girl", the nappy will turn blue or pink when put in water, 99p.
Gamleys, countrywide.

☐ **Wooden rolling pin:** 89p.
Early Learning Centre, countrywide.

☐ **Skipping rope** with wooden handles, 99p.
WH Smith, countrywide.

SEVEN TO 10-YEAR-OLDS

☐ **12 anti-dust colour chalks** by Crayola for marking out hopscotch and blackboard use, 69p.
Some supermarkets and most toy shops.

☐ **Jacks and ball set**, 69p.
W.H. Smith, countrywide.

☐ **Loopy Lou wristbands:** six strands in six different colours, 25p.
Fenwicks, countrywide.

☐ **Yoyos:** big, dual colour, 99p.
Farnworths at Lakeside Thurrock, Essex; Bromley, Kent; and Brighton, West Sussex.

☐ **Kaleidoscope**, 99p.
Lorimers at Sevenoaks, Kent; South Norwood, south London; Purley, Surrey; Orpington, Kent; Tolworth, Surrey; Carshalton Beeches, Surrey.

☐ **Gordon Fraser Country Companions 3:** Range of ¾in by 5½in lined notebooks, 85p.
Clinton Cards, countrywide.

☐ **Candy lollipop** with icing decoration of little figure with either red or green backing, 99p.
British Home Stores, countrywide.

☐ **Amoeba silly putty** in 1½in jar with smiling face in blue, orange, yellow, pink and green. Can be turned into bouncy ball, 50p.
Farnworths at Lakeside, Thurrock, Essex; Bromley, Kent; and Brighton, West Sussex.

☐ **Unwins salad cress seed** for winter gardening, 69p.
Gardening centres, countrywide.

☐ **Flexible flutes:** 9in-long in fluorescent pink, orange, yellow and green, 12p.
Fenwicks, countrywide.

☐ **Secret message kit** with two pen sets, 49p.
Woolworth, countrywide.

☐ **Cereal box with six toys:** Selection of slide puzzle, water pistol, bouncy ball, six-piece jigsaw, dinosaur colouring book or squirt ring, 99p.
Gamleys, countrywide.

☐ **Puzzle with ball** to swivel into goal. Round, 2in across. Range also includes cat and mouse puzzle, Babes in Wood, and Little Red Riding Hood, 99p.
Farnworths branches.

☐ **Model dinosaur** with information from Carnegie Museum collection, from 69p.
Early Learning Centre, countrywide.

☐ **Metal compass**, 89p.
Farnworths.

☐ **Fun Water Squirter:** Hand-held in shapes of computer, movie camera, calculator, camera, telephone and so on, 99p.
Gamleys, countrywide.

☐ **Egg-shaped dinosaur soaps** in red or yellow, 99p.
Boots, countrywide.

☐ **Whoopee cushions**, 55p.
Lorimers branches.

☐ **Milk chocolate football kit**, 99p.
British Home Stores, countrywide.

☐ **Waddingtons paper shaper kits:** Pets, dinosaurs, marine and aeroplanes. No glueing required, 99p.
Toy Stack shops at Lakeside, Thurrock, Essex; Ealing, west London; Watford, Herts; Ilford, Essex; Edgware, Middx; Kingston, Surrey; Kenton, Middx.

☐ **Plastic kites:** Owls, butterfly, eagle, moths, dinosaur, Indian squaw, 99p.
Gamleys, countrywide.

☐ **Christmas pole lollipop**, multi-coloured sweet on 11in-stick, 75p.
British Home Stores, countrywide.

☐ **Pocket solitaire:** Orange and black, 49p.
Fenwicks, countrywide.

● *Some of the above products will be available at other outlets, including corner shops. Prices may vary. Not all items are available in all stores.*

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ATTRACTIVE lady 40s single again seeks a good start to 1994 with educated gentleman SOH and kindred spirit. London/M4 East. Reply to Box No 8226

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BEAUTIFUL yet modest, vivacious yet discrete, sophisticated yet natural, honourable yet fun, chivalrous and well spoken. I enjoy people, places, antiquities, sport, home and family. I challenge a true gentleman between 40 & 55 to compliment these criteria. Box No 8223

BEAUTIFUL young lady, 31, Greek lawyer, warm, funny, vivacious, slim, stylish, successful seeks similar handsome, exceptional, sincere male, 30-45, for laughter love & marriage. Photo & phone please to Box No 8248.

BEAUTIFUL bosomy bubbly buoyant booky Barbican bluestocking (84) seeks similarly scintillating serionally studious sensual and sensitive St. Pauline. n/s, suitor (50-65). London. Reply to Box No 8221

CHARISMATIC slim attractive blonde lady 40's. London. Seeks stimulating caring relationship with established wealthy businessman, 45-70, possessing style and presence. Photo age. Reply Box No 8284

CINDERELLA, blue eyed blonde, slim, good looking, artistic. London based, n/s, seeks her elusive Prince Charming, 45-55, for togetherness. Please Reply to Box No 8267

CLASSY not brassy slim very attractive lady kind and caring, enjoys travel, sport, antiques and dining out. Looking for fun and laughter with similar attractive solvent ballish guy, N/S and CSOH, 38-48. Photo appreciated! Box No 8207

CULTURED blonde (50+) 5'7" is moving offshore after successful international business career. Choice of haven can be influenced by unattached sex exile (38-48) who can cope with sweet natured, paradoxical high achiever. Please Reply to Box No 8249.

DUTCH born London based lady 47 'sporty' content workaholic seeks fit educated sociable photo pls to Box No 8203

E.MIDLANDS slim attractive solvent 30 something female seeks warmth laughter & passion from n/s male. 30-50, who loves food, wine + music. Please reply with photo to Box No 8210

ENGLISH rose 54 professional happy smart jessy but about to south Rich seeks male friend photo, tel no. Please Reply to Box No 8182

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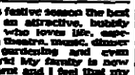
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OXBRIDGE educated attractive Jewish woman 40's 5'7" seeks Mensch Reply Box No 8278

PROFESSIONAL girl own home in Richmond would like to meet normal n/s professional male of similar age (30). Photo Please. Please Reply to Box No 8222

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ROMANTIC, creative woman, early 40's Jewish (non religious) looking for humorous considerate man with zest for life, travel arts. Town and country life - style Box No 8296



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GENTLEMEN

AMERICAN gentleman, retired academic, 69, interests include theatre, films, travel, books, dining out, chess and dogs. Frequently visits England. Ladies 48+. Please Reply to Box No 8259

AMSTERDAM 46, English graduate, own company. Incurable romantic, loves breakfast in Antwerp, lunch in Paris, looking for that special someone, adventurous, attractive, to share Europe with. Food, theatre, cricket and civilised cricketers. Short letter, photo, phone number guarantees reply - Go for it, I believe in myself, and you know how important that is. Please Reply to Box No 8238

AT first glance this ad might appear to be for you but please do not discard it. It is completely genuine. Could you be (or do you know someone who could be) a beautiful woman who could be important to me? I am a widower, 48, 5ft 9ins, fair hair, blue eyes & very well off. If you're around 35 & don't see anything wrong with being helped with housing, motoring & holidays, please send a photo & phone no to Box 4895

ATTRACTIVE & slim early 30's career girl who has missed out single by similar successful 40 year old who wants to get things right. I love London & country pursuits cooking socializing ballroom partnering slow cars fast bikes Photo please Box No 8185

ATTRACTIVE and elegant young lady companion, preferably oriental, required by modern day English aristocrat. French extraction, for sparkling wit, love. Meeting London. Photo please. Box No 8273

ATTRACTIVE London Lawyer, 40, seeks unpublished lady for uncomplicated relationship. Please Reply to Box No 8267

BUSINESSMAN 58 + 5ft 9 (Last N/S, divorced, car ferry to and for France 21st. Wishes to meet attractive lady under 55 to share a gradually relaxed Xmas & New Year in France shared expenses & lots of T.L.C. etc. Genuine replies with photos. Please Reply to Box No 8217

BUSY 57 year old professional bachelor, 5ft, fair and active with wide interests, still seeks pretty uncomplicated and loving girl (24-32) forever. Please Reply with photo Box No 8243

CHRISTMAS alone for Londoner unless a lovely lady 30 to 44 wishes to share festivities at home or abroad in the sun. Photo please Box No 8240



GENTLEMEN

COTTAGE in Cumbs, Suffolk townhouse both lacking warmth of food females. Prof gent 38, single, n/s, seeks personable girlfriend to share good times, countryside, restaurants and sofa. Reply to Box No 8187

DOCTOR, widower, 52, London area, does not abrupty, romanticism of Anton Tchekov and Lermontov, seeks femme fatale non gender blonde with non melodious smiling blue eyes for loving symbiosis, send photo please to Box No 8209

DYNAMIC, kind, caring and considerate male, aged 39, tall, own hair + business. Likes travel, restaurants, sport, cinema, theatre, kids, OSOH. Seeks tall, attractive, stylish lady, any age, who does not wish to be lonely this Xmas. Reply guaranteed. Box No 8171

HANDSOME kind separated Irish Gentleman, full of charm, well dressed, 6ft, very fit slim 5'7") tired of routine life seeks attractive, slim, petite adventurous lady, no ties to travel. Need love, sun, sea and sailing which will hopefully lead to a permanent lifestyle and lasting relationship. Only genuine ladies please write with details and photo. Box No 8264

GENTLEMEN

HANDSOME tall upper class chappie, 36, inclined to take life too seriously, seeks attractive younger woman to send him up and take things down. Possible sexcellent long term position. Photo? Reply to Box No 8195

LAWYER 60 seeks younger professional girl for winter, dining and lovays. Box No 8275

MIDDLE aged dinosaur, n/s, 6ft 2in, V.G.S.O.H likes theatre, concerts, travel, seeks lady to share N Year and beyond. Please Reply to Box No 8191

MIDLANDS Company Director 52 seeks permanent relationship with unattached business woman or professional lady 25-35 who must have marriage in mind. Photo please. Reply to Box No 8268

MILLIONAIRE I'm well who's left! Fit & fifty who still plays cricket - socially - when asked - seeks soulmate. Problem is I have a social disability - I run a restaurant. Please Reply to Box No 8245

GENTLEMEN

OUTSTANDINGLY attractive, successful, romantic, caring man in 40's. Top professional and author. Creative, fit, intelligent and fun. Only reply if you're beautiful, intelligent and very special. I'm choosy and need a challenge! Please write convincingly with photo and phone number. London. Please Reply to Box No 8096

RECKONS interesting and warm relationship, many years abroad, financially independent, middle aged, wide interests, very active male. Please Reply to Box No 8272

SINGAPORE - Indian businessman non-smoker/drinker, 34, seeks female companion for travel, music, sport, reading, humour. Reply to Box No 8288

SPORTY graduate 40, well travelled and spoken, seeks lady educated lady, under 36 to share affection, values, interests, travel and humour. Letter and photo please to Box No 8260

SUCCESSFUL good looking London based intl businessman 40's seeks younger exceptionally attractive ambitious elegant feminine trustable educated woman to share life with - all letters including recent photograph replied to immediately. Please reply to Box No 8246

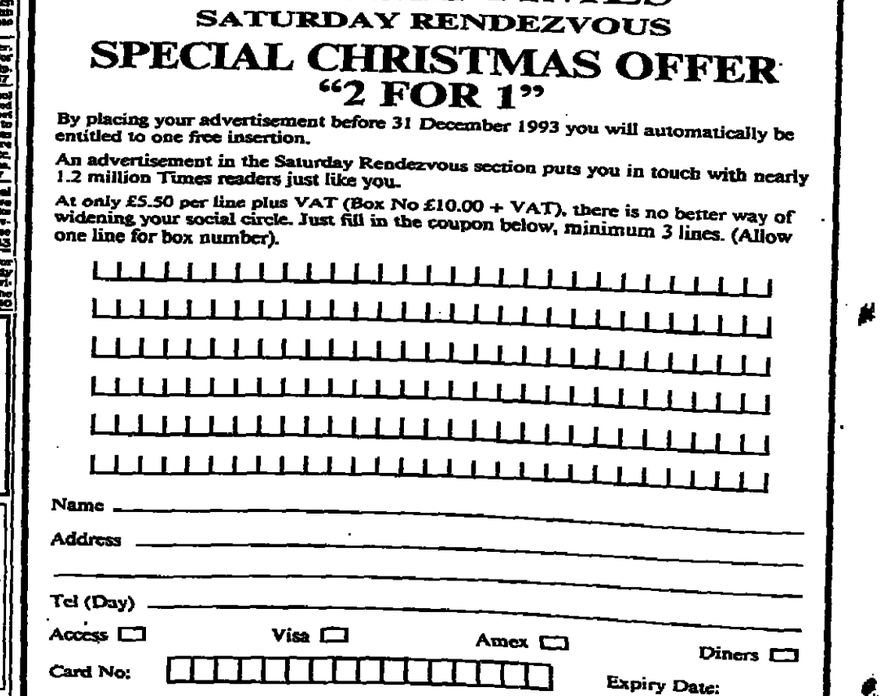
GENTLEMEN

SUSSEX man, 49, solvent, slim, N/S, enjoys travel, the arts, sport, gardening, seeks a unusual, younger lady who preferably speaks Deutsch, box 8236

TALL, Good-looking professional (youthful) 46 year old Londoner, well built with wide interests seeking intelligent, attractive younger lady for lasting partnership. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 8234

UNATTACHED man, 55, widower, ft, successful and secure, considerate, humble and not unattractive, much travelled but living in and enjoying Central London. Longing to meet that one special young lady with lovely looks and lovely personality to spoil and share some special times with. Remember, life is not a rehearsal. Please write with a photograph to Box No 5301

YOURNISH 60ish Places must seeks compatible stunning younger woman for companionable and exciting happy times. Photo please to Box No 8215





نقلاً عن الأصل

Christian Dymond finds a company building aircraft to First World War designs

Aviation history in the making

Down a leafy lane, past a small church near the place where Constable was born, Tony Ditheridge is wheeling out a Sopwith Camel into the winter sun.

Behind him, in a huge Suffolk barn, lies the passion of almost half a lifetime: pieces of tailplane, a few old rotary engines, bits of damaged wing, the wooden remnants of a Russian plane which has spent most of the past 50 years at the bottom of a lake, and stacks of original drawings.

Inside the barn, too, is an Avro 504K, a First World War flying machine that is taking five men seven months to complete. Every little detail, from the way the numbers are stamped on the metal brackets to the way the Irish linen is stitched around the fuselage, is done as it would have been nearly 80 years ago.

"This is not a replica. This is an Avro 504K built in 1993," says Mr Ditheridge.

His flirtation with First World War aeroplanes, which turned into a love affair and then a business, began some years ago when he was negotiating for an old Aston Martin from the United States.

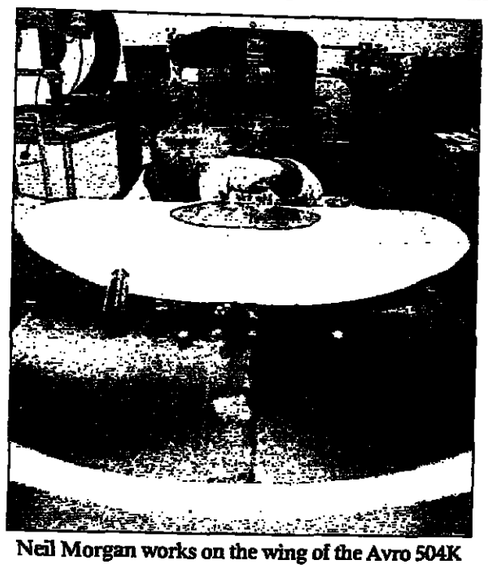
The man with whom he was dealing let slip that he had a Tiger Moth in a garage next door to the car. Mr Ditheridge took that instead and then learnt to fly. Five years ago, having built up a business in highly specialised microscopes, he set up a company to restore and manufacture First World War aeroplanes. "They're like old Bentleys, just dripping in nostalgia and tradition. That's why I love them so much," he says.

With a vast number of original drawings and some 850 technical books on planes from that era, he is not short of instruction on how to assemble these magnificent old aircraft.

"Basically they're metal aeroplanes held together by bits of wood, so we start by making hundreds of complicated metal brackets," says Mr Ditheridge.

This is aircraft manufacture as a cottage industry, with two, possibly three, planes turned out a year, at about £120,000 each.

The Chilean Air Force Museum in Santiago has been the best customer so far, taking four planes — an Avro 504K, a 1908 Blériot, an SE5A and a Bristol MIC monoplane — in the past five years.



Neil Morgan works on the wing of the Avro 504K

Private collectors and other museums have bought as well. Geoffrey Verdon-Roe, the son of Alliott Verdon-Roe, designer of the Avro 504K, donated an Avro 504J from AJD Engineering to the Southampton Hall of Aviation.

When he started the company, Mr Ditheridge was fortunate enough to attract the services of two specialist craftsmen from British Caledonian: Graham Self, who is a metalworker, and Richard Watson, a woodworker. Two apprentices complete the team.

Company philosophy dictates that everyone should be able to do everyone else's job, so while three of them might be working on the metal brackets, the other one or two might be selecting and preparing the seasoned spruce and ash for the fuselage and wings.

There is something of the skeletal dinosaur about a First World War aeroplane beginning to take shape. Covering the wooden rib-cage with Irish linen takes two people nine weeks. First the linen is pulled over the wooden fuselage and wings, then it is hand-stitched, treated with water to shrink it and given six coats of clear dope. Two coats of aluminium are added to protect against ultra-violet rays.

Finally, the aeroplane is hand-painted in either khaki or drab olive with, of course, the RAF roundels.

In the meantime the plane has been "plumbed out" with its engine, its instrumentation and fuel tanks. "We look for original engines and instruments, but if we can't find them, we make them ourselves to the exact specifications," says Mr Ditheridge.

Leather or wicker seats are added. One or two customers have even wanted original guns, too.

So seven months after the team first thumbed through their books and original drawings, a plane is finished. A plane of wood, Irish linen and a thousand metal brackets.

And what are they like to fly? "Wonderful," says Mr Ditheridge, although he admits the rotary engine can be difficult to handle because of the gyroscopic effect it has on the plane, so a slightly more modern engine can be fitted. That seems to be the only break with tradition that he is prepared to make.

● *AJD Engineering (0449 740544 or 740179, fax 0449 741584)*

MICHAEL POWELL



Graham Self building the airframe of the Avro 504K, and (inset) the finished aircraft

Sales

PREVIEWS

☐ Fancy owning a stately home, however small? On Monday, Sotheby's Sussex, Summers Place, Billingshurst, Sussex (0403 783933), offers a unique set of eight balsa wood models of exteriors and interiors of such places as Chatsworth House in Derbyshire and Knole in Kent. Made by Hamleys in the 1950s, they are being offered together for up to £2,000.

☐ This week has a morbid streak. On Monday, Jimi Hendrix is celebrated at Bonhams, Montpelier Street, London SW7 (071-584 9161), with an auction of photographs of the late rock star, from childhood images to performing (£100 to £200). Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 6602), counters on Tuesday with the Donald Campbell collection, mementoes of the man who lost his life trying to break the world water-speed record on Coniston Water in 1967 (estimate £800 to £1,000).

☐ On Tuesday, Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (071-581 7611), proves frames can be just as pretty as pictures. A Dutch 17th-century ebonised example is estimated at £200 to £800, while an English carved and gilded example will cost £300 to £600.

REVIEWS

☐ There was astonishment at Sotheby's when a Greek vase estimated at £200,000 fetched £2.2 million. The 6th-century vase was a highlight from the Hirschmann collection, the identity of whose owners the auction house insists on keeping secret.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

CORRECTION

The gallery featured on the collecting page (December 4) is the Bank Street Gallery, Sevenoaks, Kent (0732 458063). The Pinot Noir mentioned in the wine column (December 4) is called Waipara Springs. The supplier is the Waterloo Wine Company (071-403 7967). The telephone number of the Humane Slaughter Association (December 11) is 0707 659040.

Deafened by the Sonic boom

In the lucrative Christmas market for video games, a small blue hedgehog is still the king

According to a recent survey conducted by the frozen-food company Birds Eye, 37 per cent of five to 11-year-olds say that video gaming is their favourite activity. This compares to only 32 per cent who read at home.

Certainly, video games have supplanted pop music as a dominant force in the youth market. *Gamesmaster* is now the television event of the week, not *Top of the Pops*, and dozens of video-game magazines clog newsagents' shelves. Even *Beano* is looking over its shoulder at a new *Sonic The Hedgehog* comic currently selling 90,000 copies a fortnight. Small wonder that the British market is now conservatively reckoned to be worth more than £900 million a year, larger than the crisp and video-rental markets combined.

The undisputed champions of the video-game arena, locked in a perennial power struggle for the pocket money of the nation, are Sega and Nintendo. Their principal weapons in this fight are the Mega Drive and Super Nintendo, 16-bit games consoles that sell for about £130 each, depending on the software bundle included. Although both firms have simpler, inexpensive 8-bit consoles in their ranges, these lack the credibility of their flagship siblings. (Bits are simply the measure of a system's calibre. The more it sports, the greater the processing power.)

Both machines have a similar technical specification and an impressive (and expensive) library of plug-in games cartridges. Serious video gamers, naturally, own both. Given that many games are now available for both systems, console preference is largely dictated by brand image. Sega currently commands the greatest street cred, thanks to its spikey blue mascot, Sonic, and a continuing and incomprehensible television campaign. But the video-game market is notoriously fickle.

Hoping to gatecrash the Sega/Nintendo party this Christmas are Commodore and Atari. Both firms have new games consoles which put them ahead in the bit-wars.

Commodore is creating ripples with its £200 32-bit Amiga CD32 machine. Unlike the Mega Drive and Super Nintendo, it plays games that come on compact discs instead of cartridges. Not only are CDs a lot sexier to look at than cartridges, they can hold much more data — which means more complex play.



Sega's Sonic hedgehogs the limelight

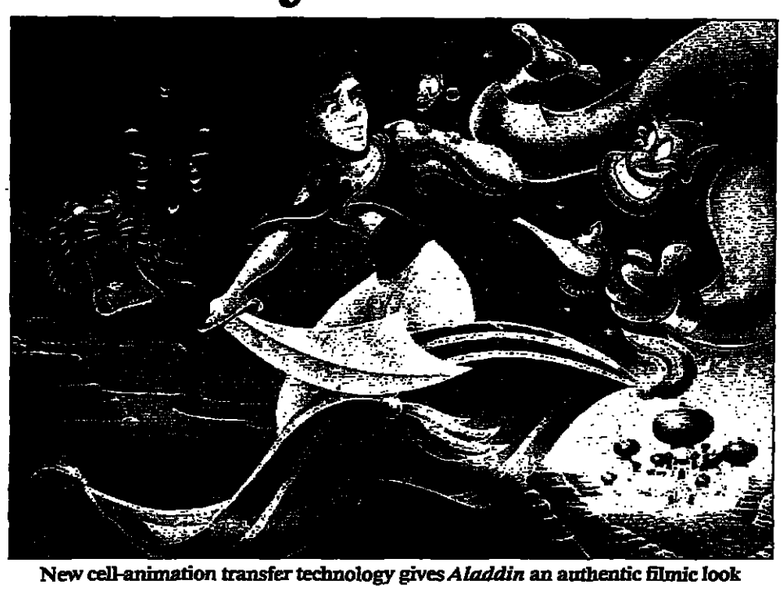
While Commodore creates ripples, Atari is on the verge of unleashing a tidal wave, in the form of its 64-bit Jaguar system. This £200 console is potentially the most advanced on the market. It is a spectacular second bite of the cherry for Atari, which actually created the video-games market with its now primeval Atari 2600 console a decade ago.

The Jaguar is the perfect gift for parents who want to look seriously cool in the eyes of their offspring. Of course, it takes more than advanced technology to survive in the video-game jungle. Atari's technically superior Lynx hand-held video-games system proved no match for the simplistic Nintendo Game Boy. Much will depend on the quality of the games that Atari can conjure up.

Finding first-rate games for the big two machines, however, is not too much of a struggle, provided you know where to look. There are some excellent new releases for the festive season that will prove irresistible to family members of all ages.

Aladdin, for the Mega Drive, is a dazzlingly playable version of the hit Disney movie. New cell-animation transfer technology has been used to give the graphics an authentic filmic look. It is fast, funny and worth investigating, despite the £49.99 price.

Widely regarded as the finest computer football game ever written, *Sensible Soccer* has now been converted for both the Super Nintendo and Mega Drive. These latest editions sport new player options and have surprisingly convincing gameplay. Graham Taylor could learn a lot. The Super Nintendo version sells for £49.99, the Mega Drive version £39.99.



New cell-animation transfer technology gives *Aladdin* an authentic filmic look

Mortal Kombat is the kind of cartridge that tries hard to give video games a bad name. In many ways it is the Rolling Stones to Sonic's Cliff Richard. In it, the player assumes the role of a kung-fu style superhero whose sole aim is to defeat similarly equipped villains. The play is unashamedly violent — kicking, punching, jumping, eye-gouging, rib-busting and so on. There is no question, however, that these controversial beat-'em-ups (and there are many) are astonishingly popular. *Mortal Kombat* (£49.99) is about the best of the bunch and comes in both Sega and Nintendo guises, although there are significant differences between the two. The Mega Drive version features all the finishing "death" moves and graphic gore that gave the game its infamous reputation in the arcades. The Super Nintendo release, by comparison, has been completely sanitised, as part of the Japanese giant's self-regulation policy. Nothing unpleasant ever happens in Nintendo land. Unfortunately, the end result is like watching Bruce Lee at a tea dance. This year's Christmas number one, though, is likely to be that ubiquitous hedgehog.

Sega has lined up three new Sonic games for the season, of which the best bet is *Sonic Spinball* for the Mega Drive. A pinball-machine variant priced at £49.99, *Spinball* looks certain to be the must-have cartridge of the year. Last year's *Sonic 2* game sold more than five million copies. It was a big deal. This could well be bigger. In the land of the video game, Sonic is king. And he is likely to stay that way until Nintendo (or Commodore, or Atari) can come up with a truck fast enough to flatten him.

STEVE MAY

Festive events

LONDON

☐ **Bob Wilson Funfair:** Traditional funfair delights.
Leicester Square, W1. Today, tomorrow and until Jan 9 (not Christmas Day). Midday-11.30pm. Free.

☐ **Dogman:** Musical children's comedy based on the cuddly superhero. Free ice-lollies.
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, W6 (081-7483354). Today, 4.30pm, and until Jan 8 (except certain dates). £7, child £3.50, two adults and two children £18, one adult and three children £15.

☐ **Past pleasures:** The story of a royal Stuart Christmas in a 17th-century setting. Costumed interpreters make merry with music, dance and decorations.
Queens's House, National Maritime Museum, SE10 (081-858 4422). Tomorrow, 11am-4.30pm. £3.75, child £2.75, two adults and five children £14.50. Prices include admission to museum and Cutty Sark.

☐ **The Magic Boat:** Musical play with poems and puppets for three to five-year-olds.
Polka Theatre for Children, 240 The Broadway (081-543 4888. Today, 12.30pm, 2.30pm and 4.30pm, and until Jan 15 (except Sun and Mon). Adults and children £3.30.

☐ **Noddy:** Colourful play for three-year-olds upwards.
Lyric Theatre, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (081-741 0824). Today, 11am and 2pm; tomorrow, 2pm and 4.30m (until Jan 16). £9.25, child £7.25.

BERKSHIRE

☐ **Wizard of Oz on Ice:** Panto extravaganza.
John Nike Leisure Sport Complex, Bracknell (0344 860033). Today and tomorrow, 2pm and 6pm. £5.25, child £4.50.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

☐ **Steam train ride:** Santa visits passengers en route, magic show, mini train ride, museum.
Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, Quainton Road, near Aylesbury (0296 655720). Today and tomorrow, 11am-4.30pm (open Christmas Eve.) Adults and children £6 second class carriage, £7 first class.

DEVON

☐ **Magical Tales of the Brothers Grimm:** Show based on well-known fairy tales.
Northcott Theatre, Stocker Road, Exeter (0392 54853. Today, 7.30pm, and until Jan 15 (except Sun). Adults and children from £6.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

☐ **Annie:** The musical about a plucky orphan.
Everyman Theatre, Regent Street, Cheltenham (0242 572573). Today, 2pm and 7pm, and until Jan 15 (except Sun). Adult from £9.50, child £7.50.

MANCHESTER

☐ **Walk the Plank:** Floating grotto and fantasy world of fire and ice in the hold of the theatre ship *Fitzcarraldo.*
Manchester Ship Canal, Salford Wharf (061-813 7350). Today, midday-9pm; tomorrow until 6pm (open daily, except Mon, until Christmas Eve.) £4, children £3.

OXFORDSHIRE

☐ **Scrooge: The Musical.** Festive production for seven-year-olds upwards.
Apollo Theatre, George Street, Oxford (0865 244544). Today, 7.30, and until Jan 29 (except Sun). Adults and children from £8.50.

☐ **Aladdin, or Raiders of the Lost Lamp:** Traditional pantomime in enchanting surroundings.
The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton (0608 642350). Today, 4pm and 7.30pm, and until Jan 15 (except Sun). Adults £9, children £6.50 (full price for evening performance).

SCOTLAND

☐ **Sleeping Beauty:** pantomime with Les Dennis.
King's Theatre, Edinburgh (031-220 4349. Today, 2.15pm and 7pm, and until Jan 29. Adults and children from £7.50.

TYNESIDE

☐ **Goldilocks and the Three Bears:** Family show starring Bobby Davro.
Theatre Royal, Grey Street, Newcastle upon Tyne (091-232 2061). Today, 1pm, 4pm and 7pm, and until Jan 16 (except Sun). Adults and children £5.

WALES

☐ **The Magical Pantomime Cinderella:** Traditional family show.
Pavilion Theatre, East Promenade, Rhyl, Clwyd (0745 33000). Today, 2.30pm and 7pm, and until Jan 8. Adults from £6.50, children from £4.50. Prices differ for other days.

WORCESTERSHIRE

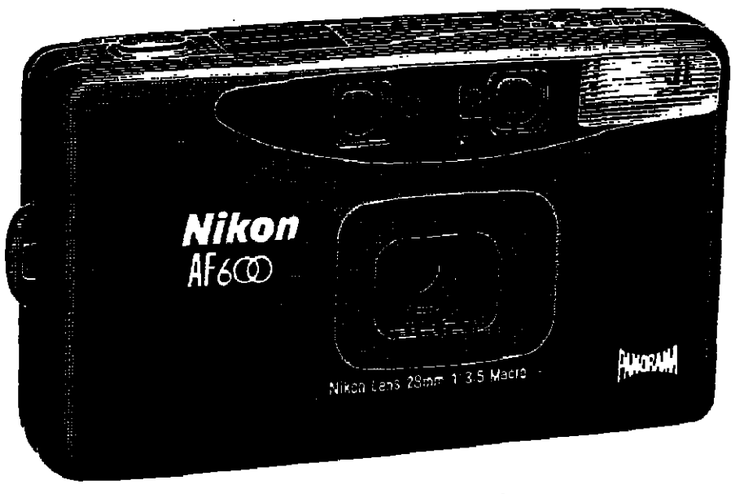
☐ **Holiday activities:** Workshop for seven to 11-year-olds: how to make Christmas cards, decorations and so on.
The Commandery, Sidbury, Worcester (0905 355071). Today, 10.30am to noon, and 1.30-3pm. Phone booking advisable. Child £2.25.

YORKSHIRE

☐ **Grassington Dickensian Christmas:** Punch and Judy, juggling, torchlight morris dance.
Grassington Town Centre (0756 752463). Today, 11.30am-8pm. Free.

JANE BIDDER

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A midwinter splash in the ice canyons

Clad in wet suit and hiking boots, **Doug Sager** takes a plunge into the freezing water chutes of the Alps

In the off-piste powder-snow mecca of the Swiss Alps, the off-piste skiing was miserable — Verbier in midwinter and we were seriously bored. "Let's try ice canyoning," suggested Mark, my Californian friend.

A certain secrecy surrounds ice canyoning, as Thierry Gasser of Evasion sur Mesure in Verbier explains. M Gasser is one of a handful of Alpine mountain guides doing canyoning in winter.

As the canyons are public areas, guides are reluctant to publish route details which might be exploited by do-it-yourself thrill seekers. M Gasser, for example, has invested in a network of access trails to "his" canyon, where even the flow of water can be regulated in summer by negotiation with local hydroelectric generating authorities.

M Gasser takes us up the hairpin curves to Marecottes, a family skiing area above Martigny. Having already scouted the area, he announces we can take the upper canyon route. The most exciting, this is often too dangerous in winter because of avalanches.



The icy plunge into an Alpine torrent

Just outside Marecottes we begin a one-hour 400m vertical hike in snowshoes, but a direct assault up frozen waterfalls in the canyon bed itself is also possible for those adept with front-pointing crampons and an ice-axe in each fist.

For those who choose the easy path, the hike serves one essential purpose — by the time we reach the top we are warm enough so that stripping down to bare skin to squeeze into 7mm thick neoprene wet suits is refreshing. The suits come with gloves and a hood which fits around the head, leaving only a small hole for the face. Neoprene socks are forced into Goretex hiking boots which we have brought along.

Climbing harnesses and helmets are donned. Fussing with the unwieldy and unfamiliar suits is a distraction from other sensations clamouring for attention. The midday winter sun strobes down into the canyon, creating areas of brilliant light and eerie dark. The ice is variously blue, white and black beside torrents of raging water. The tumult adds to the sense of isolation, exacerbated by the white expanse of snowfields above and the deep cut of the gorge we are about to descend.

The general theory of canyoning, summer and winter, is that you surrender to the chutes and ladders of swift flowing water, shoot over waterfalls to land in deep pools, and shuttle along the chicanes secure in the knowledge that time has erased all sharp edges in the channels, and somebody has determined through experiment that survival is highly probable. Water pressure creates a cushion against contact with solid rock. Even without any exterior flotation device, the wet suits have high buoyancy.

The initial descent is a steep slide of solid ice over which a waterfall plunges. Mark goes first. He abseils down about five metres, then releases the rope and shoots at incredible speed, totally out of control, over the ice into the air and down into a black pool some four metres in diameter. M Gasser urges me to start off, but I am not going down until I see Mark come up.

He does, spluttering and shrieking in manic relief, or possibly exhilaration. I let go of the rope a metre earlier than Mark. Tumbling in the spill below, I clearly see shafts of sunlight piercing through the 15cm crust of ice ahead. So I kick out into the current and swim under the ice some 20 metres and ahead into the next open pool. "Just like a seal!" M Gasser shouts, letting go full bore from the top himself.

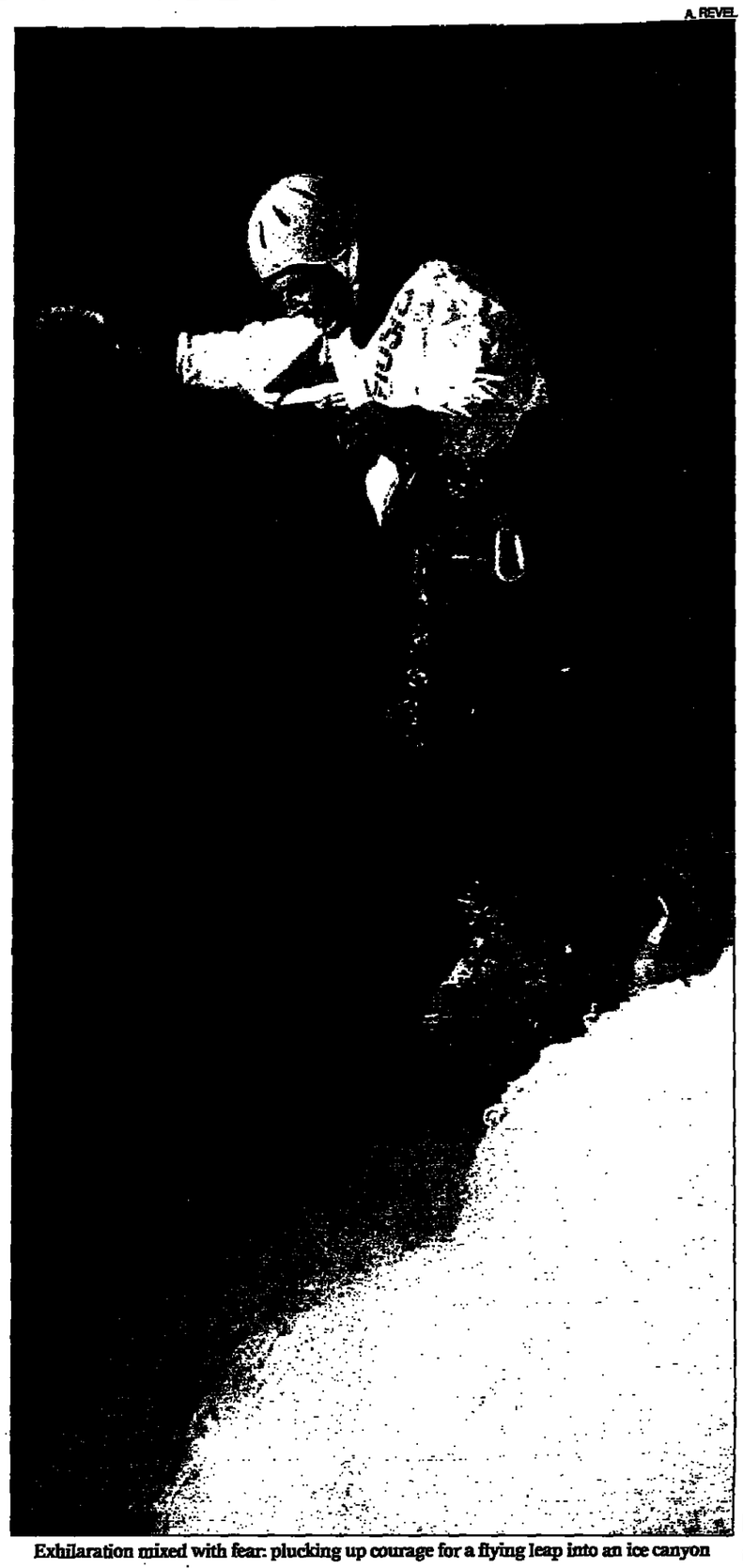
The water is bone-chillingly, mind-numbingly cold. But not really colder than in summer, when it is still only 3C. We decline M Gasser's offer to climb up and do it again. Similarly, we demur when shown the 12m free-fall line straight down into a pool which looks about the size of a postage stamp.

But Mark throws himself with élan into a frothing channel of twisting curves, which we access by a 15m abseil. As I follow, light fades. Effervescent white water turns dark. At one point, I am rocketing around corners in a shoulder-wide gorge with walls 20m tall nearly closing off the sky.

Like penguins, we plunge from pool to pool. Often the ice is wafer thin. Everywhere the light flickers in hues of green and blue. Wintering trout are clearly visible. Icicles thicker than tree trunks and as delicate as knitting needles twinkle as we flash through the water.

Bones aching with cold, we finally reach a wide spot in the canyon and climb a waiting ladder to cross a footbridge for a high-speed waddle in the wet suits to M Gasser's van. The driver thaws us out with hot chocolate, but not enough, so we exercise the "normal" option of changing clothes then and there. As the blood flows once again to the extremities and hot air from the heater wafts on to our frozen faces, we are still jumping from excitement. We are not bored any more.

● *Ice canyoning can be booked directly with mountain guide Thierry Gasser's Evasion Sur Mesure (010 41 26 311 630, fax 010 41 26 317 245). Wet suit, semi-dry optional oversuit, gloves, crampons, body harness, ropes, snowshoes and ice-axes are supplied as needed in the per person fee of 80 Swiss francs (£36). Hiking boots sturdy enough to take snowshoes and/or crampons must be worn.*



A. REVEL

Exhilaration mixed with fear: plucking up courage for a flying leap into an ice canyon

An invitation to the country

Packing a powerful house party punch

'*Weekend guests are such sweet sorrow! Here today and here tomorrow*". So twinkles the legend on many a guest-bedroom cushion, but no one has adequately described the sweet sorrow of *being* a weekend guest. Agonising beforehand over what clothes to take is just the beginning of one's sartorial odyssey. Even the most practised invitee goes through agonies of indecision faced with packing for a Friday to Sunday in the country.

House-parties are a glorious concept, but remember you are entering a closed society, as hermetically sealed as a yacht or a Carmelite convent. If you fail to pack a cartridge for the hair-curling wand or a pair of flat shoes, you're up the proverbial creek or, to be precise, a very long drive with nothing but a closed general store cum sub-post office between you and ridicule.

What is needed is a blueprint for survival, and the first item on it should be a clothes list. Unfortunately your host or hostess won't furnish you with one, confining themselves to vagaries along the lines of "just bring mac and wellies and something for Saturday night". Do they mean the food? No, they mean that besides themselves and the five other house-guests, there will be an influx of neighbours on Saturday evening and everyone will sit down to a rather grand dinner in the dining-room, where your short black Lycra tube would look as appropriate as a lilac and pink shell-suit at a pheasant shoot.

Research your destination before you go. If you're bound for a cottage there will be bathroom-sharing and low beams, so take a dressing-gown and arnica balm for the bruises. It takes at least two days to learn to walk with the hunched stoop of Piltdown man, an unattractive but necessary precaution if you're to avoid having your brow stove in by every door lintel in the place.

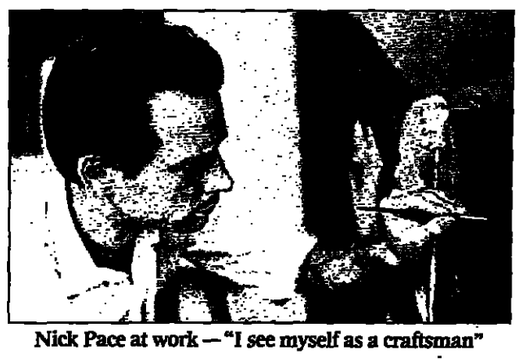
Old rectories, mills, converted barns and farmhouses are probably the most comfortable and least hazardous places to be a guest. They are more likely than either cottages or stately homes to have enough bathrooms, hot water and heat. Meals will happen in large, Welsh-dresseredkitchens with an Aga at one end and a dog-strewn sofa at the other. Cheerful Mrs Thing and her daughter will come in from the village and do all the boring chores like peeling the carrots and washing up lunch, so you won't be called on to do much more than lay the table and make a mean bloody Mary.

You won't encounter much formality or organised blood sports in this house party, but there will be expeditions, tramping about the countryside and visiting other people in old rectories, mills and houses with names like The Butts. Think in layers and avoid black at all costs. Black looks horrid in the country except when it's velvet and seen by candlelight. For this destination your leggings and huge jersey, combined with stout walking shoes, brightly coloured scarves, hats, and gloves, should get you through, plus an evening version of the legging look and the optional extra of a long skirt for Sunday lunch.

Strictly speaking, house-parties proper take place in large country houses with at least two back staircases, a library and their own deer park. There may well be live-in staff, and herein lies the first hazard. The housemaid may unpack for you while you're having tea in the library, and

Old Masters from the copybook

Portraits of family, friends and even pets can be commissioned from copyists in the style of your favourite painter



Nick Pace at work — "I see myself as a craftsman"

The price of even the most inconsequential picture has, in recent years, become so prohibitive that more and more people are turning to copyist painters when decorating their homes.

Whether you are looking for something to fit in with a period theme, say the austere quality of a Tamara de Lempicka to hang over your Breuer chaise longue, or require the resonant hues of a Modigliani to blend in with your new colour scheme, or simply fancy yourself sitting astride a horse in an equestrian painting by Velasquez, or having your favourite mutt painted in the style of Stubbs, the choice is unlimited.

This is not the type of furtive faking that would worry the art world — although standards now are very high — or those ghastly laser-painted copies which are like glorified prints, but a decorative and affordable way to live with the art of your choice.

Nick Pace, who used to lecture in art history at the National Gallery, has been painting copies for six years and says that technical ability is the most important requirement for a copyist. "Essentially I see myself as a craftsman — you want to make something that is as good, or technically approaching the thing that inspires you in the first place," he says.

His copies are generally cool and decorative: "They tend not to be wilder, passionate expressionism. I often go for bourgeois, successful painters who painted for rich clients and friends. They turned them out coolly and methodically but were technically perfect, which makes them much easier to copy. They suit me emotionally."

Painter Fiona Sutcliffe finds that clients are usually looking for richness and colour in a painting and that early Venetian works are popular for their decorative qualities. She also paints what she calls "tasteful puns". For example, she is currently reworking an Edwardian portrait of a landowner and his wife by giving the original couple the new owners' faces.



After Tissot by Nick Pace

One client wanted a surprise present for her husband. "I copied part of two Titians," she says. "She wanted her husband as the hero in a Swiss Guard's uniform, standing in a triumphant position with her at his feet, because he was smaller than her in real life." There's no mistaking that it is a fake: the hero is still wearing his 1990s black-rimmed glasses. "The clients want contemporary faces. If I changed their hair or other obvious distinguishing features it could look ridiculous."

Painting portraits of favourite pets is another area for the copyist. Robert Woodward has had two of his dogs painted in the style of Stubbs. "I wanted my first dog, Wordsworth, painted because he was getting on and I thought I would be left without a tangible reminder," he says. After Wordsworth passed on, Mr Woodward felt it right to honour dog number two, Toby, in the same way.

"The first painting is excellent. Wordsworth was an extraordinary dog with an arrogant grin and it was him to the life. The one of Toby by Tim Brown was a perfect likeness at the time, but he was young then and has changed a lot since," says Mr Woodward.

Interior designer Joanna Wood sees a growing market for fakes, and often commissions on behalf of her clients. "Prices for art are so high now, very few people can afford it," she says. "And the quality of the copyists has become so good that it's become much more acceptable."

She will order a straight commission — a copy of a lesser known Stubbs for a gentleman's study — or something made to measure. "You can make a landscape wider or cut an 18th-century gentleman off at the knees. I once ordered six individual portraits for one room from an original painting of a group of children. You can experiment and diversify in a way that you can't with real art," she says.

The copyists mark the paintings to ensure they are not sold as the real thing, but clients may not be so forthcoming to friends about the authenticity of the work. "I know of some Turners that haven't been acknowledged as fakes. But I haven't heard anyone claim they are not," says Ms Wood of one of her commissions. "Let's put it like this. You don't want *Blue Boy* hanging in your front room. If you go for very recognisable copies, even the most casual eye is going to know it's not real."

To some, a fake is simply not an acceptable alternative to the real thing. As Mr Pace puts it: "It is to do with what you feel about the painting. If you are going to have a spiritual relationship with it, you don't want a copy, but if you want a decorative thing to go with your new room design, a really good copy and a good frame might suffice."

Prices vary enormously depending on the amount of work involved. Belinda Canosa of Champness Canosa, agent for a number of copyist painters, says: "We tend to quote for each individual commission, but as a guide we say the work will take up to three months — although it's often a lot less than that — and prices start from £450 for a still life of about 24in by 20in, to £800 for a dog painting 30in wide by 40in high, to £3,000 for a really super copy of, perhaps, an existing painting for a client who is planning to sell the original."

Ms Sutcliffe's prices are much the same, from £440 for a small painting to £4,000 for something huge.

But with some copyists now selling at auction, you may well be making a sound investment too.

GILLIAN ROWE

● *Nick Pace and Tim Brown available through Champness Canosa, 38 St Mary's Close, London W4 3LN (081-747 0436). Fiona Sutcliffe, 071-581 1083.*



Medley of Birds after Jacob Bogdani by Nick Pace — "I go for bourgeois painters"

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... for a weekend is fraught with anxiety for guests. **Sue Crewe** steers an elegant yet practical course through the sartorial minefield





Above, from left: Toby Courtauld wears claret and navy patterned polo-neck, £64.99, French Connection Menswear, 140 King's Road, SW3 (stockists 071-580 2507); navy moleskin trousers, £65, Hackett. Henrietta Horner wears cream narrow-ribbed jumper, £45.99, brown tweed gilet, £69.99, and black jodhpurs with suede panels, £89, all from Kookaï, 123 Kensington High Street, W8 (stockists 071-937 4411); cream fur peaked cap, £47, The Hat Shop. William Cazalet wears deep red paddock jacket, £129, tobacco corduroys, £65, and red and olive tweed cap, £29, all from Hackett. Quentin Higham wears cream riding mac with navy cord collar, £215, Hackett (stockists, 081-878 8443). Polly Rowan Hamilton wears Harlequin jacket, £69, Kookaï; dark brown stretch trousers, £52, Jigsaw; brown fake fur hat, £80, Catharsis, 1 Shorts Gardens, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-240 7600).



won't you feel silly if you thought you'd do your washing and ironing as you went along? Not to mention the embarrassment of finding the nameless horrors that have been disinterred from your sponge-bag and laid out in mocking order beside the wash-basin.

Do not even attempt to be clever and economical with the packing for such a visit. Be prepared for every eventuality and for your belongings to be scrutinised. The bigger the house, the less private is the life led in it. Apart from being packed and unpacked for, someone may come in and out of your room to make up the fire, one of the children of the house may visit to water the hyacinths (and have a good look at your things), the housemaid will turn down your bed and put out your nightdress, and be careful what you throw away. (Knowing full well that the odd-job man who emptied the wastepaper baskets read everything in them, my mother — saintly woman — used to tear her letters up so he would have the fun of piecing them together.)

Find out beforehand what, if any, sporting activities you may be expected to take part in. Do you need riding clothes, and will you go out shooting? Is it a household that goes to church on Sunday, and would you be more comfortable in long or short in the evening? To be avoided in grand houses are too-short skirts, too-high heels and too-thin tights; fluffy sweaters, Chanel suits and strapless taffeta gowns. Beautiful mellow interiors make a fine background for idiosyncratic, even eccentric, dressing. Swathe yourself in rich textured fabrics, Rembrandt colours, romantic shapes; avoid things that look too new or too fashionable. Above all avoid the greatest of all solecisms — unsuitable shoes.

Wherever you spend the weekend, leave a tip in the bedroom even if you haven't caught sight of so much as a duster-wielding daily. If your hostess hasn't got any help, she won't mind you thinking she has, and the £10 on the dressing-table will make her load lighter. If she has staff she has ways of knowing how much you have left, and being mean rings up as much of a black as going for a country walk in fawn suede pumps.

ABOVE

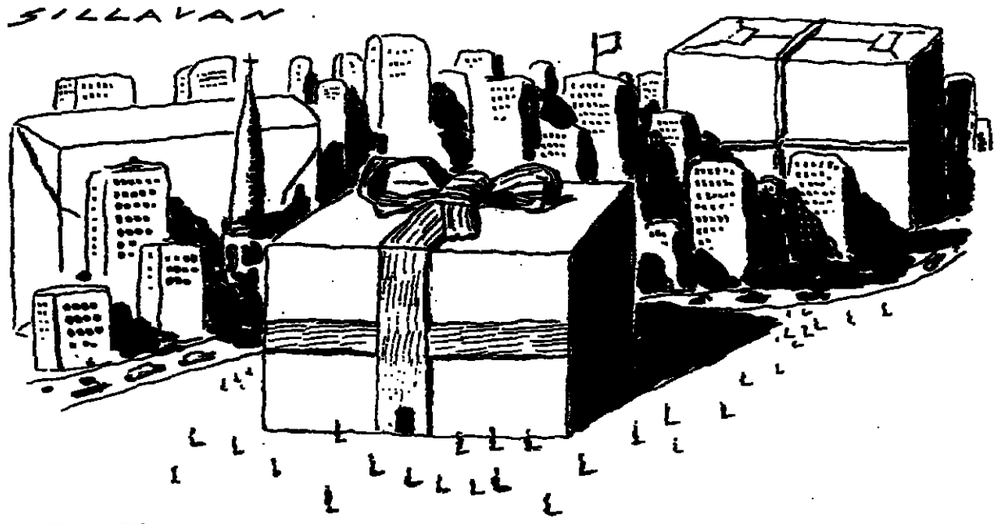
Left, Polly Rowan Hamilton wears chocolate brown velvet dress, £109, sheer print jacket, £39.99, French Connection, 140 Kings Road, SW3 (stockists 071-580 2507). Next to her, Quentin Higham wears claret velvet smoking jacket, £375, tartan trousers, £95, both from Hackett. Grania Lyster (foreground) wears red sheer shirt, £65, Red or Dead, Units 1 & 23, Thomas Neal Centre, Earlham Street, WC2 (stockists/ mail order 081-902 5588); black flares, £39.99, Kookaï. Rupert Reece (her partner) wears futuristic silk waistcoat, £180, Andrew Chan, 8 Shorts Gardens, WC2 (071-379 5554). Nick Birts (on piano) wears silk waistcoat, £119, Andrew Chan. Henrietta Horner wears long purple velvet coat with skeleton print, £222, Red or Dead.

LEFT

Grania Lyster wears dark green polo neck jumper, Jigsaw, 31 Brompton Road, SW3 (stockists 081-878 8443); green and black brocade scarf, £90, Catharsis, 1 Shorts Gardens, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-240 7600); black and cream tweed cap, £18, The Hat Shop, 58 Neal Street, WC2 (071-836 6718).

Photographs by Denzil McNeelance. Styled by Alicia Drake.

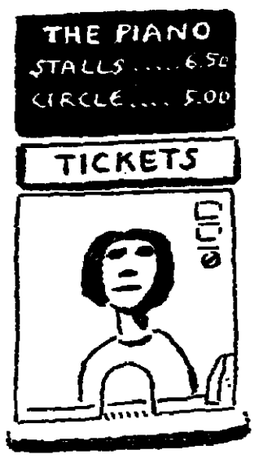
Shot on location at Braxted Park, Witham, Essex (0621 892305), which is available to hire in the summer.



Berlin

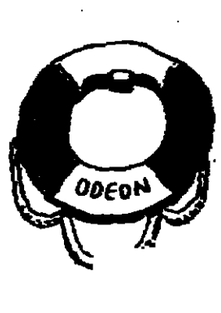
MODES

THE THERAPY
A. On days when it is easier to look into a refrigerator than into a mirror, Overeaters Anonymous of Los Angeles Platz in Berlin will talk you through it. Least likely caller: Helmut Kohl, who tucks into plates of pasta *before* official banquets. He says it helps him to relax.



THE CLUB
Tresor used to be a bank on the East-West death strip in Berlin. Now it is a disco. If the music flags, imagine how it was when the background music came from East German machine guns.

THE CAUSE
It is now chic to save East Berlin Zoo. Forced into a merger with the West Berlin Zoo, unhappy Ossi monkeys have to share cages with Wessi chimps. Ossi vipers may be doomed. The campaign slogan is: Save our snakes. Sign up now.



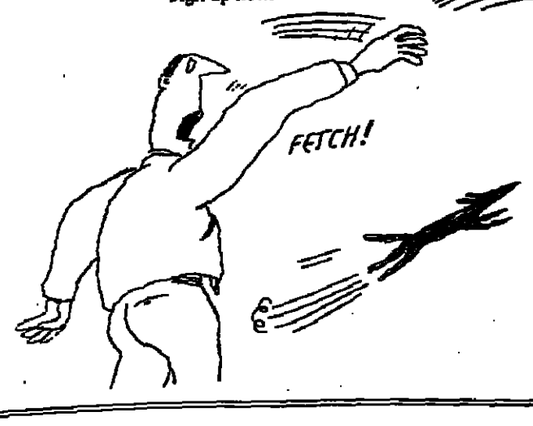
THE CULT
A. Barbie, not Klaus the war criminal but Ken's plastic friend, has become an obsession even for post-pubic Germans. The hideous blonde toy is taken to parties, pinned to handbags, stuck in vases, given to pets and integrated into art works. Lexicological footnote: Kitsch is a German word.
B. Cybersex, little more than media hype elsewhere in Europe, is serious business in Germany. Best selling computer programme includes PC Love by Beate Uhse (who started decades ago with inflatable dolls) and a strip-poker game by porno queen Teresa Orlowska.

THE BUILDING
What to do with all those ugly Nazi-era buildings that survived British bombs? How will the European Central Bank, for example, settle into the sinister Frankfurt headquarters of IG Farben, erstwhile employer of slave labour? One solution: give all the buildings to Christo, who is again threatening to wrap up the Reichstag in plastic foil.

ROGER BOYES

B. Crying in movies is back in vogue. Hardened German feminists who haven't bawled since *Jules et Jim* are weeping again. The Weepie of the moment is a heavily dubbed version of *The Piano*. But anything will do, even Disney.

THE LAMP
German creative energy is currently plugged into lamp design. The Catacomb — a converted stable in Berlin — gives space to 92 lamp designers. You have to look elsewhere though for the most politically perverse illumination of the day: a halogen lamp in a glass jackboot. A case, perhaps, for Neon-Nazis?



ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

FIELDBORNE GALLERIES 63 Queens Grove, NW8. 071 586 3600. Works by **SCOTTIE WILSON**. Enduring Christmas and New Year GIFTS. Tues-Fri 10.30-5.30, Sun 11.30-4.30.

Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1. 10-6 daily. Closed 24, 25, 26 Dec. Open New Year's Day. Recorded info 071 439 4996/7 **FROM LEONARDO TO VAN GOGH: MASTER DRAWINGS FROM THE J.PAUL GETTY MUSEUM.** Book tickets on 071 240 7200 (bkg fee).

WATERCOLOURS The Late Rowland Hilder, Anthony Fleuming & Ronald Olley. To 24 Dec (and 4-7 Jan). **DUNCAN CAMPBELL** 15 Thackeray St, W8. 071-937 8665.

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 071 836 3161 (24hr) **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA** Tom's 4.30 LOHENGRIN Mon 7.30 TWO WIDOWS

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 071 240 1066/1911. Tickets avail on the day. Stand-by info 836 6903. **THE ROYAL BALLET** Today 1.00, Mon 7.30 The Nutcracker **THE ROYAL OPERA.** Tom't 7.30 Tosca.

SADLERS WELLS inc cc (071 278 8916/cc 071 497 9977 (bkg fee) 8-18 DEC Adventures in Motion Pictures **"A dazzlingly imaginative new version" S. Times THE NUTCRACKER** FROM 21 DEC - 8 JAN Black Light Theatre of Prague **PETER PAN** "Like magic come true" Times.

THEATRES

ADELPHI "A genuine triumph" D. Mail "Andrew Lloyd Webber's most persuasive Score" New Yorker **SUNSET BOULEVARD** "Oh what a glorious Sunset" D Exp "It out - Oklahomas "Oklahoma!" Wall St Journal 24-HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 071 344 0055 (bkg fee) GROUP BKG 071 413 3302 (bkg fee) NO BKG FEE FOR PERSONAL CALLERS AT THE ADELPHI BOX OFFICE Recorded Information 071 379 6884 Mon-Sat 8.00 Mats Thu & Sat 3.00 EXTRA XMAS MATS DEC 21 & 24 AT 3.00. NOW BOOKING TO APRIL 94 QUEUE DAILY FOR RETURNS

CALL 071-481 1920 To place your entertainment advert in THE TIMES

ALBERY THEATRE 071 867 1115/1111cc or 24hrs/bkg fee 071 344 4444 Grps 071 867 1115 or 413 3321 "GIZZARDGULPING FAMILY FUN" Times THE BFG of Roald Dahl's whizzcracking story SAVE £18 - ask box office for details Most days 2 & 7pm. Sat 11am, 2.30 & 7pm.

ALDWYCH 071 836 6404/497 9977 Group Sales 071 930 6123 "UNMISSABLE" Time Out "OUTSTANDING!" D. Tel The Royal National Theatre's multi award-winning production of J.B. Priestley's **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** "As concentrated a piece of theatrical perfection as you will find anywhere" Today "I URGE YOU TO SEE IT" D.Mail Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.0.15 Wed mat 2.30 Now booking until March '94

AMBASSADORS 071 836 6111/ 1171 cc 497 9977/344 4444 (No b/fee) EILEEN ATKINS PENELOPE WILTON **VITA AND VIRGINIA** "CUT-GLASS-CLASS" Daily Mail Tues-Sat 8.00 Wed Mats 2.30 Sat & Sun Mats 3.30 MUST END TOMOR

APOLLO 071 494 5070/ 071 344 4444/497 9977 (All 24hrs/No bkg fee) Groups 494 5454/413 3321 "THE BEST PARTY IN TOWN" D.M **"FOREVER PLAID"** Mums are Xmas Party Nights! Mulled wine & meet the cast! Call 494-5070 for details Mon-Thu eves 8, Fri & Sat 9pm+8.30 Fri 6pm all seats half price!

APOLLO VICTORIA SS cc 630 6262 Groups 828 6188/413 3321 cc 24hr 071 344 4444/497 9977 "Andrew J.Lloyd Webber's New production of **STARLIGHT EXPRESS** "A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail White knuckle runs 10.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £10.00 - £30.00 XMAS MATS DEC 23 & 24 AT 3.

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE BO/CC 071 387 9629 From December 20 Daily at 3pm. Some morning perfs at 11.30am Please check with Box Office. **SOOTY AT CHRISTMAS**

CAMBRIDGE WC2 BO/CC 071 494 5080/071 344 4444 Grps 071 413 3321 "A FANTASTIC 70'S MUSICAL Abba, Glitter, Bowie & Queen meet the devil in this year's biggest cult hit musical" Capital Gold * HOT STUFF * "Truly roaring across the West End stage in a frenzy" Today JAN SALE ALL SEATS £10 From Jan 3rd except Sat 8.30. Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30 XMAS MAT DEC 24 AT 3.00 ALL SEATS £10.

COMEDY BO/CC 071 867 1045/ 071 867 1111/344 4444 IAN HOLM ANNA MASSEY Evening Standard Actor of the Year in HAROLD PINTER'S **MOONLIGHT** " It moved me to tears. Go, and you will see a GREAT PLAY" D Mail "This play has everything going for it" F **LAST 3 WEEKS!** Mon-Sat 8 Mats Wed 3 Sat 5

CRITERION 839 4488 cc 344 4444 LOOKING THROUGH A GLASS ONION **JOHN LENNON** IN WORD & MUSIC " The best sounds in town" What's On Mon-Fri 8.00 Sat 6.00 & 9.00

DOMINION Ticketlines 081 900 1557 071 580 8845/9562. Grps 071 636 0975 413 3321 / 396 4747 **GREASE** Starring CRAIG McLACHLAN and DEBBIE GIBSON "A monster hit" Daily Mirror Eves 7.30pm Mats Wed & Sat 3pm EXTRA XMAS MAT DEC 24 AT 2.00 NO EVE PERF

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 071 494 5001/344 4444/240 7200/379 6901 Grps 831 8825/494 5454 **MISS SAIGON** "THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME" NOW IN ITS 5TH FABULOUS YEAR! Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm EXTRA XMAS MATS DEC 20 & 24 AT 3.00 Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE POSTAL BOOKINGS/PERSONAL CALLERS 071 494 5080 BKG FEE

DUCHESS cc 071 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/836 2428 (bkg fee) 071-413 3321 Eves 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30 24 Dec 5pm Only NOW IN ITS 3RD YEAR "A SAUCY COMEDY" E. Std **DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER** "Gloriously Outrageous" T.Out

DUKE OF YORK'S THEATRE 071 836 5122 cc 836 9837 24hrs/7 days 836 3464, 344 4444 DAVID SUCHET LIA WILLIAMS **OLEANNA** by David Mamet Directed by Harold Pinter "Riveting new play" D. Tel Eves 7.30, Thur Mat 3, Sat Mat 4 No latecomers admitted

CALL 071-481 1920 To place your entertainment advert in THE TIMES

FORTUNE BO & CC 836 2238 CC 497 9977 (No fee) 344 4444 (24hrs/No fee) Grps 930 6123 JOHN NETTLETON BRIAN DEACON Susan Hill's **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt "The most chilling and thrilling play for years" D Mail Eves 8pm Mats Tue 3pm Sat 4pm Now booking until March '94

GARRICK THEATRE BO/CC 071 494 5085 (bkg fee)/CC (24 hrs) 344 4444 Grps 071 494 5454 **STEVEN BERKOFF** ONE MAN "Cripplingly funny...Hilarious" T.Out " Riveting... Hypnotising... ... Memorable " S.Tel Ltd Season Mon-Sat 8pm (no mats) MUST END JAN 1

GLOBE BO/CC 071 494 5057/071 344 4444/497 9977 Grps 930 6123 TOM CONTI GABRIELLE DRAKE JUDY LOE & JENNY SEAGROVE in NOEL COWARD'S **PRESENT LAUGHTER** " I was CAPTIVATED and DAZZLED by its charm and fizz... A TRIUMPH" D Mail LAST PERFS TODAY at 3.00 & 7.45

GLOBE BO/CC 494 5057/497 9977 THE PETER HALL COMPANY FELICITY GRIFF KENDALL RHYS JONES **AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY** Translated from Le Dindon by Nicki Frei & Peter Hall Red price previews from 27 Dec

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL BO/CC 071 930 8800 24hrs no bkg fee RSC production of **THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA** "AN UNDOUBTED HIT" Obs. by William Shakespeare with music by Gershwin & Cole Porter Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00. Mats Dec 22 & 23 All Seats £11 Ltd Season Must End Jan 15

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/497 9977 (bkg fee) Group Sales 071 930 6123 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Directed by HAROLD PRINCE Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 NOW BOOKING TO 17 DEC 1994 APPLY DAILY FOR RETURNS

LON. PALLADIUM 24hr BO/CC 071 494 5020 (£1 per Tkt Serv Chge) (071 344 4444/497 9977 Serv Chge Mon-Thu/bkg fee Fri-Sat) Groups 494 5456 (£1 per Tkt Serv Chge) Andrew Lloyd Webber's "exuberant new production" Std of "Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's Palladium Blockbuster" Grn JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT Dir by STEVEN PIMLOTT Starring JASON DONOVAN Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 QUEUE DAILY FOR RETURNS This production must end 15 Jan

LYRIC, Shaftesbury Ave Bo & cc 071 494 5045 cc 071 344 4444 All tel lines 24hr/7 days (bkg fee). cc 497 9977 Grps 071 930 6123 The Joint Never Stops Jumpin **FIVE GUYS** NAMED MOE THE OLIVIER AWARD WINNING MUSICAL 3RD GREAT YEAR Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat at 6 & 8.45 XMAS PERF DEC 23 AT 6.00

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 071 928 2252 Grps 071 620 0741; 24hr cc bkg fee 071 497 9977 **OLIVIER** Today 2.00 & 7.15, THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Kenneth Grahame, adapted by Alan Bennett. Mon 7.15 THE ABSENCE OF WAR David Hare. **LYTTELTON** Today 2.00 & 7.30, Mon 7.30 SWEENEY TODD Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by Hugh Wheeler from an adaptation by Christopher Bond. **COTTESLOE** Today 2.30 & 7.30, Mon 7.30 MOTHER COURAGE Bertolt Brecht's in a version by Hanif Kureishi.

NEW LONDON Drury Lane BO 071 405 0072 CC 071 404 4079 24hr 344 4444. Grps 930 6123 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER /T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL **CATS** Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 EXTRA XMAS MATS DEC 20, 22 & 24 AT 3.00: Special signed perf Monday at 3 LATECOMERS NOT ADMIT TED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open at 6.45 LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

OLD VIC 071 928 7616 / CC 071 497 9977 Groups 071 930 6123 28 Dec - 8 Jan PATRICK STEWART in A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Entertainments continued on Page 14

Worship at a doomed temple

Ruth Gledhill visits the Hare Krishna temple at Watford that is fighting for its survival



FOUR-thirty in the morning, in an oak-panelled, chandeliered former ballroom, we were chanting the Hare Krishna mantra before a pantheon of unfamiliar gods. We were celebrating *arati*, a Hindu offertory ceremony, with an impressive number of images of deities in Bhaktivedanta Manor, a once stately home bought for the Hare Krishnas in 1973 by George Harrison, the former Beatle. I found myself humming his *Hare Krishna Mantra*, which reached the Top 20 in 1969, while worshippers concentrated on the "great" or Maha-Mantra, the basic Hare Krishna mantra, which is the chanting of the names of God. Hindus are monotheistic, believing in one supreme being, but hold that this being appears in many guises, such as the fish, the tortoise, the bear and the man-lion, incarnations of Vishnu, the governor of the world.

The intricacy and detail of the worship at Watford, rare outside India, have made this temple popular with the wider Hindu community in Britain. Krishna's birthday in August, the most popular annual festival, attracted 40,000 devotees this year. My visit came at the end of the month of Damodhar, when Krishna is worshipped in his incarnation as baby.

Sadly, the temple is due to close next March under an enforcement notice by Hertsmere borough council, backed by the environment department. The council says planning permission has not been granted for public worship. The matter is with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The priests, who had been chanting since about 3.50am, were singing in praise of their spiritual master, Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, whose life-size image was seated cross-legged in an alcove at the back of the temple-ballroom. A similar image occupied a room upstairs where, before

JAMES MORGAN



Early-morning worshippers at the Hare Krishna Temple at Bhaktivedanta Manor, bought for the sect by former Beatle George Harrison

his death in 1977, the monk was visited regularly by Mr Harrison.

The six incarnations of the deity represented on the altar included Krishna — the eighth incarnation of Vishnu, one of the three chief Hindu gods — and his favourite mistress, Rādhā, wearing their night clothes. During the ceremony they would be bathed and dressed by priests behind curtains, and changed into more exotic day wear.

About 50 people live in the community, most of them priests or training to be priests. Worship also attracts Hindus from the local community. There were about 40 worshippers at our ceremony, many young men and women. The men wore dhotis, white for married men, saffron for celibates; the women wore saris. Most of the men had shaved heads, a sign of renunciation, with a sikha, a small tuft, denoting a belief in a personal god. They had clay markings on their foreheads, designating their bodies as a temple of God.

The devotees lead ascetic lives, abstaining from meat, fish, eggs, alcohol, vinegar, onion, garlic and mushrooms. Some hold conventional jobs and wear western dress for these, but most at the early morning worship live at the temple and spend their day producing and distributing books, worshipping, maintaining the temple and carrying out agricultural work. They are often seen chanting in city streets, a practice born from their desire to share their lifestyle. They also organise food distribution to the homeless.

At 5.20am, devotees left the temple to perform their personal meditation, Japa: chanting the Hare Krishna mantra with wooden beads. Hare Krishnas aim to acquire transcendental knowledge through sacrifice, penance, yoga and philosophical discussion. By chanting their mantra, they believe they can come to know God and everything about the universe. Initiated devotees chant the mantra using a string of 108 beads at least 16 times a day.

At 7am, the curtains were opened on the shrine to reveal the deities in one of 60 sets of day clothes hand-sewn by women at the temple. This was followed by a brief ceremony of gratitude, a class on scripture and breakfast at 8.30am.

An overwhelming smell of incense stayed with me throughout the day, a reminder of the spiritual life in a largely materialist world.

● *Worship times: 4.30am-9pm daily. Arati ceremony six times a day.*

Hare Krishna Temple, Bhaktivedanta Manor, Letchmore Heath, Watford, Hertfordshire WD2 8EP (0923 857244).

PRESIDENT: Akhandadhi Das.

LECTURE: A 45-minute talk by the president on the argument against the slaughter of cows for meat based on Vedic writings held to date from 5,000 years ago.★★★

ARCHITECTURE: Mock Tudor built at the turn of the century, with the ballroom now a temple and the servants' quarters used by male students training to be priests. Female students live in what was the gardener's cottage.★★★★

LITURGY: Chanting of the names of God from 15th-century adaptations of the Upanishads, part of the Vedic canon.★★★

MUSIC: Wonderfully exotic 17th-century songs in Sanskrit, an ancient language no longer spoken outside religious worship, and modern Bengali.★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Prashadam, or sweets, from the early-morning meal offered to the deity Krishna, and blackcurrant tea.★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: The extraordinary effect of chanting mantras beneath the glittering chandeliers of the one-time ballroom was rather diminished by the early hour.★★

★ *stars are awarded to a maximum of five.*

vices & VIRTUES

Edward Marriott asks people in the public eye to confess their sins and celebrate their saving graces



JANE LAPOTAIRE
Actor

1st Gluttony: With knobs on! I'm a real foodie. My evening meal I look forward to like a meeting with a good friend. I don't mind what people say about me as an actor, but I do mind whether they think I'm a good cook.

2nd Wrath: I have a duality about this. I'm very French — I let off steam and the air is cleared in seconds — but I'm also very English — I boil the anger up for ages before I let it off. Women have been conditioned not to show their feelings. That's wrong.

3rd Pride: The first thing I'm proud of is my son, Rowan, who's at Oxford doing English. I brought him up on my own and he's just been made a scholar at St Catherine's. It's also 17 months now since I've had a cigarette or a cup of coffee. I'm proud of that.

4th Envy: I'm too busy being me to be envious of other people. I'm too busy trying to live in harmony with myself to want to be someone else. The nearest I get to envy is when I look at people who have a happy marriage after 30 years. There is a tinge of regret that I've not had a constant relationship with a man.

5th Avarice: I have absolutely no avarice at all. I live in the same semi-detached house in Putney that I've lived in for 11 years. When I bought a new car two years ago it was only because the old one was ten years old.

6th Sloth: I'm an ex-workaholic. It's taken me 48 years to understand that life is about being, not doing. I was, for 47 years, a self-confessed overachiever, but now I'm learning to take days off. I could never be described as slothful.

7th Lust: I live alone. What's the point in lust if you live alone? It's just a waste of energy.

1st Justice: Top of my list. Within justice comes equality, mercy, awareness of other people's needs. If you've got that, then a lot of the wrongs in the world would disappear.

2nd Faith: Central to my life. I couldn't live without it. I don't mean religion, I don't belong to any church. I can't sum up my faith — it is easier to tell you what I don't believe in. "Isms" of any kind do more harm than the quiet faith of people who go about their daily business in contact with an inner guide.

3rd Hope: There's a quote by Edmund Burke — "Where there is no vision, the people perish." If by hope you mean vision, then yes, it's essential and yes, I do have hope. A life without hope is no life.

4th Charity: The real meaning is love, and that should be top of everyone's list. I don't believe in putting a penny in a tin to assuage my guilt but, having said that, I'm the softest touch in the world.

5th Temperance: Like a lot of people who drink wine, I don't drink to get drunk, I drink to get the taste of it. I had a mother who was an alcoholic which stops me drinking too much. I get merry on first nights, but that is 50 per cent excitement and 50 per cent alcohol.

6th Fortitude: I am one of the most pig-headed people I know, and I'm having to learn that I'm barking up the wrong tree. It's good to have strength of spirit, but the converse is also true — it's very strong-minded to admit you're wrong.

7th Prudence: My heart always leads my head and I'm learning to protect myself from myself. I'm a complete contradiction — I'll take care of a nice new pair of shoes but I'll go out for a dangerous walk on my own.

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هكذا في الأصل

The first in a series of extracts from **Vivian Russell**'s book on the gardens of the French Riviera and the people who made them

A coterie of creative colonists

Harold Peto, Lawrence "Johnnie" Johnston, Edith Wharton and Charles de Noailles were the creative nucleus whose aesthetic sensibility and plantmanship would profoundly shape the style and content of Riviera gardens. The influence spanned nearly the whole century, starting with the revival on both sides of the Atlantic of the Italian Renaissance garden; in America with the publication of Edith Wharton's classic book *Italian Villas and Their Gardens* in 1904, and in England with the work of Peto, an architect.

When Peto left his architectural partnership with Ernest George to concentrate on gardens, the stipulation that he was not to work in England for 15 years took him to the French Riviera. Had he stayed in England, he might well have created the style of garden that made Hidcote, in Gloucestershire, famous. Victorian bedding and Capability Brown parkland was definitely old hat and a new idiom began to emerge, recalled from the Jacobean garden of hedges, topiary and rose, with cottage garden planting.

When Johnston began creating the gardens at Hidcote in 1907, he had read Wharton's book, which spoke of garden compartments and colour themes; harmony between house and garden, garden and landscape. These were the ideas he would apply to Hidcote with his now famous yew hedges and red border, and which Wharton was busily realising at her home, The Mount, in Lenox, Massachusetts. She had a "red garden" already in place in 1905. There was also another link. Wharton was a friend of Lady Elcho from Stanway, the doyenne of the All Souls — a circle of enlightened and artistic aristocrats to which Norah Lindsay also belonged. She and Johnston developed the "jungle of beauty" effect which has dominated certain English gardens ever since.

The principles of classic garden design found their way into many places, but nowhere more appropriately than on the Riviera, where the climate, the landscape, the "terracing" and magic black sentinel cypress already had an Italian character — indeed it was a region that had once belonged to Italy. By 1910, Peto had exploited this to the full, having created three Italian dreamlands on Cap Ferrat: Villa Sylvia, Villa Maryland and Villa Rosemary — every brush-stroke his own, from the architect's drawings down to the last spoon.

One could say that his passion for Italy was derivative, but his personal genius lay in his inventive, dazzling use of colour, which everyone flocked to study and admire, including Wharton, Johnston, and Cecil and Dorothy Hanbury.

Returning from a visit in March 1922, Wharton reported to her niece Beatrix Farrand, the American landscape designer: "Absolutely dazzling — *pure flower gardening* ... sheets of radiant colour."

In the early 1920s, Wharton was living permanently in Paris. While holidaying in Hyères, she stumbled by chance upon Castel Ste Claire, an abandoned convent. She fell in love and leased it. Soon after, Johnston bought Serre de la Madone in Menton, to be near to his mother, who was in the sanatorium there. The trio was completed by the arrival of the newly married 32-year-old Vicomte Charles de Noailles, whose mother had bought him the land next to Ste Claire at the suggestion of her friend Wharton. It was called Parc St Bernard. These three "aristocrats of the spirit", who became the "unofficial" French branch of the All Souls, had previously all known each other in England. While at Cambridge, the 19-year-old Noailles had served as a plant courier for rhododendron seeds which Johnston was sending to his friend Guillaume Mallet at Bois des Moutiers, the Lutyens-Jekyll house near Dieppe.

A path connected the two Saints, Bernard and Claire, and would be well trodden for the next 15 years. It was a mutual interest in gardening which sparked off the friendship between Noailles, then an enthusiastic but inexperienced young gardener, and his neighbour Wharton, the experienced teacher 30 years his senior.

Each household had its own circle of artistic and literary friends, the Paris "salon" society having moved *en masse* to the Riviera, where there was good food, good conversation, and many picnics and walks in the hills.

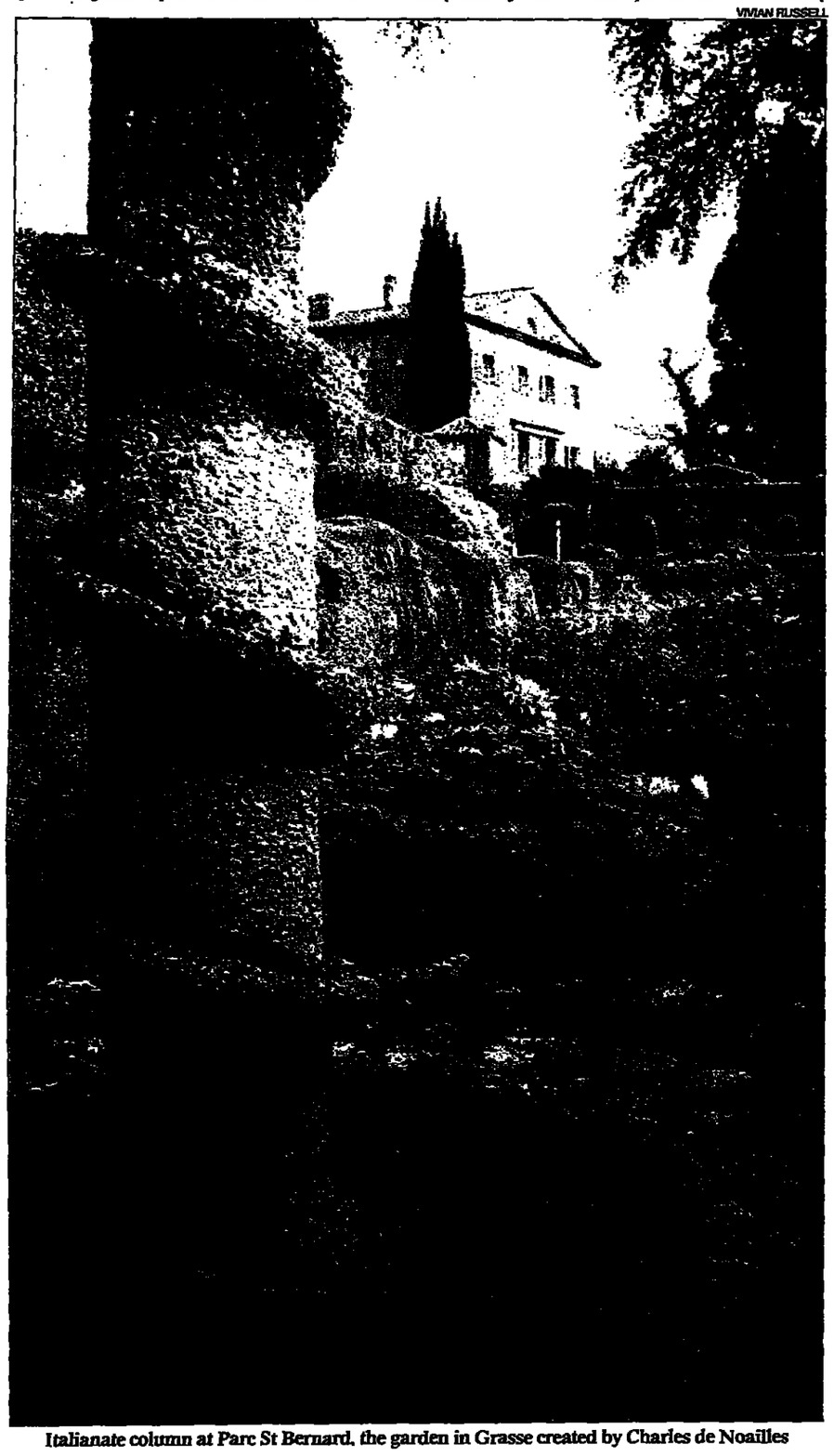
The Ste Claire entourage included Johnston, Kenneth and Jane Clark, Bernard and Mary Berenson, Nicky Mariano, Aldous and Maria Huxley, and Cyril and Jean Connolly. Huxley admitted that Wharton's short novel *Twilight Sleep* had influenced *Brave New World*, and it may have been she who spurred him out into the garden. Maria reported Aldous digging "every spare inch of the ground and causing havoc all around him to the despair of the gardener".

The young Noailles couple, who had built a strikingly modern cubist-style house within the ramparts of the ruined castle at St Bernard, were wealthy patrons of then unknown avant-garde artists and composers such as Poulenc, Man Ray and Jean Cocteau.

It was not only an artistic and literary colony that sprang up, but also a gardening club. Johnston, and later Basil Leng, appeared on the scene and they all swapped plants, talked plants, dipped in and out of their favourite gardens and nurseries; and the "boys" all went plant hunting together. A constant stream of guests made their way between the two houses like a column of ants, for tea, lunch and dinner from December to March for the next 15 years.

● *Edited extract from* Gardens of the Riviera, *by Vivian Russell (Little, Brown, £25).*

VIVIAN RUSSELL



Italianate column at Parc St Bernard, the garden in Grasse created by Charles de Noailles

Planting for sensuality



A Madonna welcomes visitors to Johnston's Serre de la Madone

Charles de Noailles died aged 90 having created a magnificent garden in Grasse. He was still working on plans for a potager. This is part of an interview in which he discusses gardens:

If you look at gardens created by Le Nôtre, the supreme authority on the French garden, you will see that what is on one side of an axis always balances what is on the other side, but that the two are never identical. It is the mediocre imitators who insist on rigid symmetry. I like patterns strongly stated by means of neatly kept, low hedge borders: they constitute the architecture of the garden. But, within this formal framework, I like the plants and flowers to grow freely, as they please.

Statues are an excellent thing in the garden. They are halfway between man and matter, a perfect intermediary between nature and humanity. A true gardener is a sculptor as much as a painter. Anyway, the real painter, the real colourist is not he who relies on colours that are beautiful *per se*, but he who creates beautiful relations between colours that, in themselves, may be quite banal.

Nor should one be obsessed by one's eyes at the expense of one's other senses. Smell, for instance. It isn't as easy as it seems. The point of a scent is to be smelled. The trouble is that you cannot remain aware of it more than a few seconds. Hence the whole art consists in placing nice-smelling plants at strategic points, where they take you by surprise. But if you pause and sit down, the effect wears off. With a little planning, you can have three or four spots in your garden the year round where you suddenly exclaim, "Heavens, what a nice smell!" But of course, the planning mustn't be noticeable.

Sound is by no means a negligible factor either. Much of the charm of fountains stems from the water's rustle. Trees, too, make different sounds. A friend of mine planted some aspens along the side of his house because they shiver audibly when no wind is blowing. People should always put a chatty tree in their garden.

A bad garden reflects its proprietor's wealth; a good one, his personality.

Having "the green thumb", as the English say, may simply consist in sensing what plants desire. It is hard to explain, but I know that plants don't forgive you if you are not present when they are going through the labour of breaking into blossom. When I'm not in my garden at the time a plant I like is about to blossom, I feel very uneasy. I think that I am being unfair to it.

Plants must be loved by their owners. For a man who has a very beautiful garden tended by ten gardeners, plants are things he sees in passing: they are not friends. But if a true gardener plants everything himself, there are some plants, certain trees, for instance, that he will never really see. Strange as it may seem, no gardener ever feels frustrated by this. When I plant something ten inches tall, knowing it will eventually grow to be ten feet tall, I really see it in its full height. Besides, one does witness some growth. Then I tell myself: I have lost a few hairs, but it has gained a few branches.

Considerable pleasures, these. And I assure you I am not in the least upset by the knowledge that my garden will really be seen in its full glory only by my great-grandchildren.

In my garden at Grasse, I planted a *Magnolia campbellii*. I rejoice at the thought of it blossoming. To see it in flower, I calculated that I would have to live to be about 115 years old. Yet it is as if I did see it.

Bedside conversion

With an artistic eye, even the most aggressive bedding plants can blend

MY POOR opinion of bedding plants has never been a secret, but gardeners' skills have a way of undermining even deep-rooted prejudice, and last summer I found myself grudgingly admiring a bright bedding display that even included red salvias.

The beds which began this conversion were in the display gardens of the small town of Lavaur, in southern France, where the bedding is designed with an artistry that would impress even the most sceptical.

The salvias were part of a hotbed of golds, molten oranges and reds, beautifully arranged in matching and merging textures: busy orange and coral lantana, with yellow calceolarias crouching at their foot, a stream of French marigolds, a judicious step of red salvia and scarlet hibiscus making a high point.

Bedding plants can, it seems, be flamboyant without being cacophonous. A summer's research has resulted in a shortlist of plants and associations which gave me unexpected pleasure.

By the side of red-brick steps, in a shady alley, were beds of busy Lizzie in prime condition (nothing is so pathetic as straggly bedding), the red and crimson spilling over and softening the hard edges. On a cool, early morning in a formal garden one row of blue and misty-grey salvias (*Salvia farinacea* "Victoria" and its white form) contrasted with the solid green of a low box hedge glimmering in the morning sun.

Begonias and nicotianas in rusty crimson echoed the same shade of colour painted on the windows and shutters of the house beyond. Violently scarlet geraniums worked when grouped in front of a buttress of velvety dark yew. Pink cleomes made a thrilling froth towards the back of a border of pink and white shrub roses and alchemilla.

Largely because of a more imaginative attitude to container gardening, a wide variety of seedlings and plantlets is now available by mail order and from garden centres, but you have to grow the more unusual kinds from seed. Christopher Lloyd has never disdained colourful annuals in his splendidly various garden at Great Dixter in East Sussex, and bearing in mind that Gertrude Jekyll prescribed red salvias in her brightest borders, I turned to see what he has to say on the matter.

He recognises the brash popularity of *Salvia splendens*, but I do not think he has ever used it. The Jekyllian turn-of-the-century plant, he suggests, was likely to have been less dwarfed and disproportionate than the present-day ones. Like the original cosmos and taller old-fashioned argyranthemums, they have suffered from the modern tendency to breed compactness, but garden plant conservationists are now searching out the older varieties.

FRANCESCA GREENOAK

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Bring pots of bulbs indoors when flower buds are beginning to reveal colour.*
- *Continue to remove winter debris and dead leaves blown into ponds, rock gardens, troughs and sinks.*
- *Harvest turnips and store.*
- *Prune shrub roses which require shaping or the removal of old wood.*
- *Keep off the soil when it is wet or frosted; lightly fork and weed in dry, milder conditions.*



Mixed bed of salvias

Caribbean catch in a London market

Lovers of West Indian fish flock from around the country to a Hackney market

STEPHEN MARKESON



Peter Barnett at his uncle Keith's stall in Ridley Road. He is a novice, having been in the market for only 19 years

Wander down Ridley Road market in Hackney, northeast London, and you could be in the Caribbean — at least if the sun is shining. Reggae blasts out from the music shops, and some days there are gospel singers on the corner of the street. And the food is authentic, too. The vegetable stalls do a good line in yams and cassava, red and yellow bell peppers, limes and plantains. You will have no problem finding salt cod and ackee, cow peas and pinto beans, creamed coconut and guava jelly.

At the butchers, there is curry goat and boiling chicken, or you can grab a long-handled fork and join the shoppers picking their way through the tripe, heart and liver on the front of the stall. For the really strong of stomach, there is salted pig snout — a lurid pink — and bulls' testicles.

Every so often there are signs of the quarter's Jewish past — the Ridley Bagel Bakery, Millie's delicatessen. Then down at the far end is the excellent Turkish Food Centre, with its flat bread and marinated olives.

However, according to Keith Barnett of Barnett Brothers the fishmonger, the trade is predominantly Afro-Caribbean. The customers are not only local people: his stall gets regular visitors from as far away as Peterborough and Birmingham as well as from all over London.

Mr Barnett's grandfather, Lenny, started a stall in Ridley Road in 1908, although the market did not receive its official licence until 1917. Mr Barnett himself has been in the market for 38 years; his brother, Manny, who has another fish stall, 48 years. In fact the Barnett family control three of the six fish stalls in Ridley Road. Manny Barnett's son Peter works with Keith. He is a novice, having only been in the market for 19 years. "We started really to move over to West Indian fish just after I started," he says. "Before that it was mostly Jewish food."

Today there is still plenty of carp on the Barnetts' stalls but the emphasis is on what the trade calls "exotics". Choose between goatfish and garfish, with its long sword-like nose and sharp teeth. For £3 you can buy a whole bag, about 4lb, of frozen snappers, but for the best flavour try the fresh Trinidad snapper. Tuna steaks are cut to the required thickness from the whole fish, up to 80lb; or if you have lots of people to feed why not buy a whole small kingfish? Catfish, redfish, yellow croaker, sea bream and tilapia — here you will find the same fish as you would see in a Caribbean port.

Not that all have come from the West Indies. Most West Indian fish is exported to the United States, so that the Billingsgate wholesalers who supply the Barnetts have to cast their net wider to find stocks. Today's tuna comes from the Seychelles, the croaker from Uruguay, the garfish from Denmark. In fact garfish is common in our waters, but according to Mr Barnett, British fishermen are superstitious about it and will not catch it.

Ridley Road's main competition in Caribbean fish comes from Brixton market. Taken together, Peter Barnett estimates that the two markets sell 80 per cent of the total, although that share is declining now that Billingsgate is open to retail trade. As a result, prices on the market have become more competitive — there are not many places in London where you can buy whole salmon at £2 a lb.

The Barnett family work hard to keep their customers satisfied. Up at 4am to get the best from Billingsgate, they are in the market by 7am six days a week. Their reward comes in customers who know and appreciate their fish. "The people who shop here like to be able to see and touch when they're choosing, to have a chat and a laugh. And even the youngsters know how to cook; they haven't lost the habit like so many people in this country." So is the hard work worth it? "My son works in computers at a solicitors' firm in the City. He's got a terminal headache," Keith Barnett says. "I wouldn't want to be anywhere but here in the market. Anyway, I'm going on holiday soon — to St Lucia."

Escovitch

Based on a Spanish recipe, this way of cooking pickled fish is very popular in Jamaica.

(serves 6 as a starter)

- 1½lb fish fillets (I use a mixture of red snapper, sea bream and tuna)
- 2 large carrots, peeled and thinly sliced
- 2 large onions, peeled and sliced into half moons
- 2 green peppers, deseeded and cut into thin strips
- 2 fresh red chillies
- 6fl oz white-wine vinegar
- 4tbsp olive oil
- 3 fresh bay leaves
- 2tsp coarse salt
- 8 black peppercorns

Put all the ingredients except the fish and two tablespoons of olive oil in a large saucepan and bring to the boil. Turn down to a simmer and cook for 25 minutes.

Meanwhile briefly fry the fish fillets in the remaining oil, two minutes on each side. Put the fish fillets in a large serving dish, pour over the hot poaching liquid, arrange the vegetables on top and chill until ready to serve.

SARAH MARSH



Tiny East Gate Lodge, Grimston Park, Tadcaster, Yorkshire: £59,000

Grand little places in the country

Lodges and gatehouses provide an inexpensive entrance to the elegance of country life, **Margaret Buntrock** reports



Looking like a small-scale version of a Cotswold manor house, South Lodge, on the Dumbleton Hall estate, Gloucestershire, is up for sale at a "very negotiable" £180,000

You don't have to be to the manor born to live in a gatehouse or lodge. These idiosyncratic properties frequently come up for sale and provide the opportunity to buy an unusual home at relatively little cost.

Most lodges were built as part of a country estate — a side order to a grandiose house, often in the same architectural style on a reduced scale. Architects delighted in experimenting with their design and landowners enjoyed the opportunity to amuse guests with a whimsical adornment at the entrance to their estates.

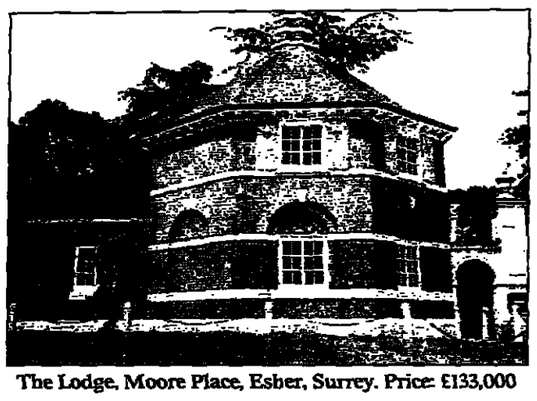
Gatehouses can be found in almost every period style, from medieval to Victorian, classical to arts and crafts. But they were most fashionable in the 18th century, with its taste for large ornamental parks.

Functional estate buildings began to be conceived as pictorial devices, to punctuate a vista or enhance an idealised landscape. The Victorians took up the conceit, happily plundering architectural styles of the past and exploiting estate buildings as attention-seeking status symbols. Today, the most desirable of these properties stand in patrician parkland, enjoying views over a managed landscape and imparting intimations of grandeur.

One such property is South Lodge at Dumbleton, on the edge of the Cotswolds in Gloucestershire, and for sale through Hamptons, Pocock and Lear in nearby Broadway, Worcestershire, for a "very negotiable" £180,000.

Looking like a small-scale version of a Cotswold manor house, South Lodge is built of honey-coloured stone and stands serenely behind the urn-topped pillars and impressive entrance gates of Dumbleton Hall in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The three-bedroom lodge has a huge oak front door and stone mullioned windows with leaded lights of unusual design, traced as delicately and elaborately as a spider's web.

But you don't have to venture into the country to find good examples of lodges and gatehouses. They survive in towns and suburbia, beached in a sea of 20th-century development, their original purpose forgotten. The Lodge at Moore Place in Esher, Surrey, once ornamented the grounds of a grand 18th-century house (for ten years occupied by Lord Byron's widow), which is now a restaurant and bar.



The Lodge, Moore Place, Esher, Surrey. Price: £133,000

The Lodge is a two-storey octagonal building, looking rather like a large dovecote. It appears older than it is, having been built in 1905 to a design by the eclectic Victorian architect Sir Ernest George, who was known for for imitating designs from his continental tour sketchbooks. Though close to a busy road and the restaurant car park, the Lodge makes an attractive home with surprisingly large rooms of unusual shape.

The present owner has taken down the internal divisions on the first floor to make a large studio area, but the space could be redivided as two bedrooms and bathroom. The asking price is £133,000, through agents Roy James Fancy at Esher.

Even more unusual are the fairytale twin towers of Guildford Lodge at East Horsley, Surrey. This startling building was originally the gatehouse to Horsley Towers, which was remodelled and enlarged in the 1850s by its then owner, the 1st Earl of Lovelace (coincidentally, the husband of Byron's only daughter, Augusta).

The gatehouse serves as an overture to the main house and shares its brand of extravagant architecture. Lovelace was an enthusiastic amateur engineer and devised an original style of vaulted ceilings using iron-rod ribs. One of the towers is separated from the main, two-bedroom building, which is on the market through Henshaws for £199,500.

Like all the original Horsley estate buildings, it is faced with flints and ornate red brickwork. Lovelace's vaulted ceilings are intact in the sitting-room and main bedroom: the bedroom has 15 arches, which spring from circular brick pillars to meet at the centre of the ceiling. The effect is stunning.

Additional space on the ground floor used to be a shop and still has retail planning consent.

The building's main drawback is its site, next to a commercial garage and on a busy road.

By contrast, the Lodge at Askam Bryan, near York, is a quiet, modest affair, built in the arts and crafts style with red-tiled roofs, tall chimneys and a large decorative porch.

The house's claim to fame is a part in the television drama series *Darling Buds of May*. The two-bedroom property has a splendid woodland setting of more than half an acre.

The agents Carter Jonas in York are asking £135,000 for the property.

If size is part of the charm of lodges and gatehouses, it is also their main drawback. To enlarge them would spoil their form and, as many are listed, structural changes are impossible.

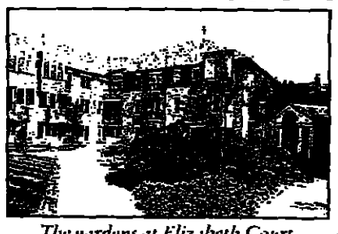
A contender for the smallest habitable lodge in the country is East Gate Lodge in Grimston Park at Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. Designed in the 1840s(probably by Decimus Burton), this classical limestone lodge is approached by a long carriage drive through extensive parkland.With just one bedroom, and the living area at basement level, the property could make an ideal bolthole for one person (or perhaps two, provided they were very tidy).

The lodge is being sold, complete with carpets and furniture, for £59,500 through Carter Jonas of Boston Spa.

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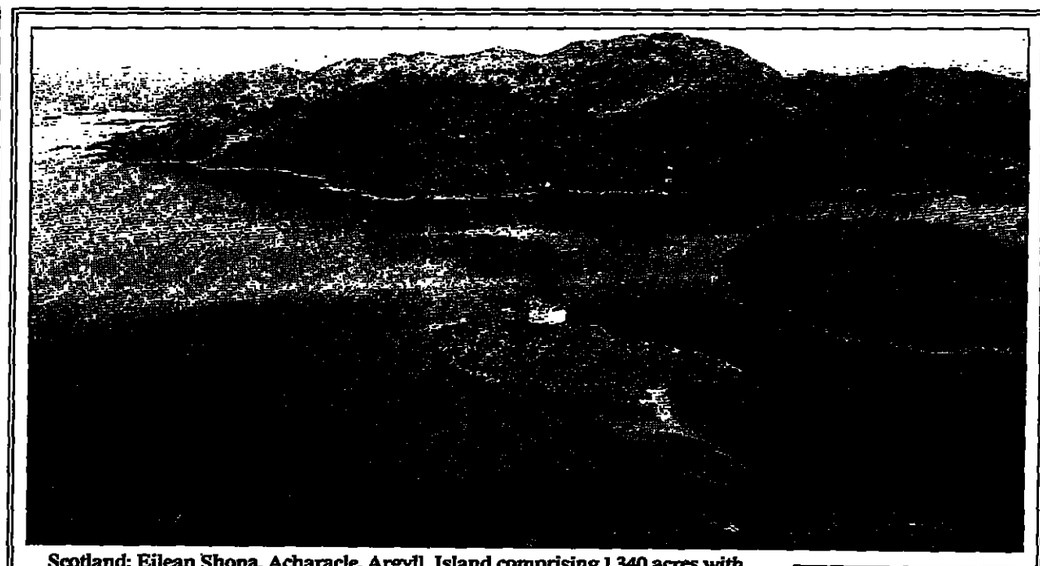
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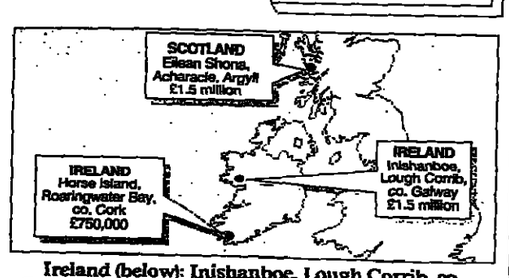


Scotland: Eilean Shona, Acharacle, Argyll. Island comprising 1,340 acres with mixed woodlands, pinetum, sporting rights (including red deer and commercial oyster enterprise), lying in sheltered waters close to the mainland of Inverness-shire and Argyll, halfway between Mull and the island of Skye. Principal house (extended 19th-century hunting lodge) overlooking Loch Moidart and Tioram Castle, with nine bedrooms, four bathrooms, three reception rooms, billiard-room, modern kitchen and a self-contained, one-bedroom flat. Seven modernised holiday cottages, two let cottages and three others. Joiners shop, deer-larder, boathouse, steading and primary school. Tennis court, harbour and floating pier. About £1.5 million.

FOR SALE
Islands



Ireland: Horse Island, Roaringwater Bay, co. Cork. Private island in one of the most beautiful inlets on the southwest coast of Ireland, comprising 154 acres of pasture land, a recently constructed four-bedroom main house, three cottages (two renovated), a pier, sandy beaches and the remains of a historic ruined village. Situated about 65 miles from Cork city and airport, the island is approached from the mainland at Rossbrin Cove or alternatively from the larger Schull harbour. About £750,000.



Ireland (below): Inishanboe, Lough Corrib, co. Galway. An archipelago consisting of seven islands, the principal of which is Inishanboe. The islands lie in the waters of Lough Corrib, one of Ireland's largest and most beautiful lakes, measuring some 44,000 acres, stretching from Galway city to the Connemara mountains. Inishanboe extends to 22 acres of formal gardens, woodland, pastures and paddocks and includes a modernised seven-bedroom period house, guest and staff cottages, substantial boathouse and several docks. Six further wooded islands, some with pasture land and docks, in all 46 acres. About £1.5 million for the islands, a fleet of boats, household contents, machinery, equipment and livestock.



Further details of islands for sale from agents Knight, Frank & Rutley (071-629 8171).

هكذا من الأصل

FILMS

NEW RELEASES

CINEMA PARADISO: THE SPECIAL EDITION (PG) This is a longer, inferior version of Giuseppe Tornatore's Oscar-winner about the life and loves of a Sicilian boy projectionist. Starring Philippe Noiret and Salvatore Cascio.
Metro (071-437 0757)

THE METEOR MAN (PG): Timid Washington teacher turns superhero and cleans up the community. Bland, dishevelled, well-meaning fantasy from writer-director-star Robert Townsend.
Electric (071-792 2020)

ROBIN HOOD: MEN IN TIGHTS (PG): Unfunny, outdated Sherwood Forest spoof from Mel Brooks, with Cary Elwes, Roger Rees and Richard Lewis.
MGMs: Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **West End** (0426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)



Salvatore Cascio stars in the film *Cinema Paradiso*

CURRENT

ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES (PG): A new baby causes chaos in America's most macabre household. Overblown sequel, with good stretches. With Raul Julia, Anjelica Huston; director, Barry Sonnenfeld.
Empire (071-497 9999) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Screen/Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

ALADDIN (U): Disney's brash Arabian cartoon does not match expectations, though Robin Williams's Genie is fun. Directors, John Musker, Ron Clements.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426-915683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

AMERICAN HEART (15): Father and son hit the Seattle streets. Well-meaning social drama from director Martin Bell; with Jeff Bridges and Edward Furlong.
Odeon Haymarket (0426 915353)

BOUND & GAGGED: A LOVE STORY (18): Muddled comic adventures in search of the characters' better selves. American independent misfire from writer-director Daniel Appleby.
MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561)

THE CONCIERGE (PG): Trials and tribulations of an ambitious concierge in a New York hotel. Barry Sonnenfeld's outdated vehicle for the ebullient Michael J. Fox.
MGM Panton Street (071-930 0631)

DAVE (15): The US President's lookalike takes over. Beguiling comic fantasy, with Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver. Ivan Reitman directs.
MGMs: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

DEMOLITION MAN (15): Sylvester Stallone versus Wesley Snipes in 21st-century L.A. *Overblown action romp with satirical touches.* Director, Marco Brambilla.
MGMs: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

THE FUGITIVE (12): 1960s television series roars back to life with Harrison Ford as the fugitive. With Tommy Lee Jones; director, Andrew Davis.
MGMs: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

THE HAWK (15): Is Helen Mirren's husband Lancashire's serial killer? Modest but powerful domestic thriller, from Peter Ransley's novel. David Heyman directs.
MGMs: Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

IN THE LINE OF FIRE (15): Secret Service agent Clint Eastwood fights John Malkovich's psychopath and his own guilt. Sturdy thriller, directed by Wolfgang Petersen.
Odeon Mezzanine (0426 915683) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

THE MAN WITHOUT A FACE (12): Scarred recluse tutors a young outcast (Nick Stahl). Queasy drama with something to say from director-star Mel Gibson.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Warner** (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

NAKED (18): Mike Leigh's excellent, uncomfortable Cannes prizewinner about London's lost souls, with David Thewlis as the amoral drifter who hits the pavements.
MGMs: Haymarket (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Notting Hill Coronet** (071-727 6705)

THE PIANO (15): Jane Campion's magnificent tale of repression and desire in mid-19th century New Zealand. With Holly Hunter, Sam Neill, Harvey Keitel.
Gate (071-727 4043) **Lumiere** (071-836 0691) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Plaza** (071-497 9999) **Screen/Baker** (071-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** (071-435 3366) **Warner** (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

RAINING STONES (15): Wonderful slice of life on a Catholic council estate. Director Ken Loach blends biting humour and raw pain. Endearing performances from local talent.
MGM Panton Street (071-930 0631)

THE REMAINS OF THE DAY (U): Life and lost chances of an English butler. Merchant Ivory's immaculate if chilly account of Kazuo Ishiguro's novel with Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson.
Curzons: Mayfair (071-465 8865) **West End** (071-439 4805) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (071-586 3057)

THE SECRET GARDEN (U): Polished version of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic; a confident mainstream debut for director Agnieszka Holland. With Kate Maberly, Maggie Smith.
MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Minema** (071-235 4225) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

THEATRE

LONDON

ASPECTS OF LOVE: For the next three weeks Andrew Lloyd Webber will have six musicals running concurrently as this one returns for a short revival. Not one of the best.
Prince of Wales, Coventry St, WC2 (071-839 5972). Opens Mon, 7pm, Tues, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm plus Christmas Eve, 3pm. Until Jan 15.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: Panto time again. Ken Campbell directs the excellent Kate McKenzie and the alarming Chris Lynam in the leads.
BAC, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (071-223 2223). Tues-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 6pm. Until Thurs.

THE BFG: Roald Dahl's Big Friendly Giant makes his now annual call on London.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon, 7pm; Tues-Fri, 2pm and 7pm; Sat, 11am, 2.30pm, 7pm.

CABARET: Jane Horrocks (Sally Bowles) and Alan Cumming as the MC, dancing with death in the last days before Hitler.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 (071-867 1150). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

CAROUSEL: Tuneful Rodgers and Hammerstein has the familiar mixture of the perceptive and the maudlin. The sets are clever.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

JANE EYRE: Alexandra Mathie and Tim Pigott-Smith in the well-known romantic melodrama. Fay Weldon adapts, Helena Kaut-Howson directs.
Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (071-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

FOREVER PLAID: Long-running American show that pays homage to the four-part harmony groups of the 1950s. Genial, and wittily performed.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri, Sat 8.30pm; mats Fri, Sat, 6pm.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Daldry's marvellously re-imagined version of Priestley's social thriller.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 5pm and 8.15pm; mat Wed, 2.30pm.

MEDEA: Diana Rigg returns to the West End in Euripides's tragedy directed by Jonathan Kent.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mats, Sat 5.30pm.

MERRY WIVES: Barry Rutter brings his Northern Broadsides company down south for a rumbustious version of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (081-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Until Jan 15.

MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN: Anthony Clark directs Hanif Kureishi's touring production of Brecht, with Ellie Haddington as the persistent capitalist.
National (Cottesloe) South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; Mon 7.30pm.

MR AND MRS NOBODY: Patricia Routledge and Clive Swift keep up appearances in Keith Waterhouse's adaptation of *Diary of a Nobody* and his own *Diary of Mrs Pooter*.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until Jan 15.

OLEANNA: Power, politics and punishment at an American university. Great performances by David Suchet and Lia Williams in Harold Pinter's production of David Mamet's play.
Duke of York's, St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

ONE MAN: Electrifying performances by Steven Berkoff in three solo pieces: Poe's *Telltale Heart*; *Actor*; and *Dog*, his hilarious, chilling view of life as seen by a lager lout's rottweiler.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm.



Martin Rehacek: Captain Hook in Peter Pan

PETER PAN: Black Light Theatre of Prague premiere their latest show using live actors, puppets and flying objects. Barrie's fairytale sounds a natural subject.
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (071-278 8916). Opens Tues, 3pm and 7pm. Then Wed and Thurs, 7pm; Dec 26 to Jan 2, Jan 6 and Jan 8: 3pm and 7pm; Jan 4, 5 and 7, 7pm. Until Jan 8.

PIAF: Peter Hall directs Elaine Paige in Pam Gems's portrait of the great French *chanteuse*.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed (without Paige) and Sat 3pm.

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER: Donald Sinden, Miriam Margolyes and David Essex in Peter Hall's revival of the evergreen Goldsmith comedy.
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

SWEENEY TODD: Declan Donnellan's superb staging of Sondheim's subtle, savage musical. Starring Alun Armstrong and Julia McKenzie.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Today, 2pm and 7.30pm; Mon, 7.30pm.

TRAVESTIES: Tom Stoppard's dazzling word-spinner revived with Antony Sher as the aged consul in 1917 Zurich. Adrian Noble directs.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm.

THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA: The national tour of David Thacker's delightful RSC production.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Extra mats Thurs and Dec 30. Until Jan 15.

WALLENSTEIN: Tim Albery's directing debut for the RSC in Schiller's mighty drama. Ken Bones plays the great general.
Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Today, 2pm, 7.15pm.



"It's Christmas. I'm pregnant, God knows how. And now you tell me you forgot to book a room. Terrific!"

From "150 Years of the Christmas Card": Gray Jolliffe's witty "*It's Christmas . . .*" design, 1977 (see Exhibitions)

REGIONAL

BAGNOR: This year's musical frolic is *The Ugly Duckling*, otherwise known as The Aesthetically Challenged Farmyard Fowl, written by George Stiles and Anthony Drew, responsible for last year's enjoyable *Just So*.
Watermill, Bagnor, Nr Newbury (0635 46044). Opens today, 2.30 and 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 2.30pm and 7pm. Until Jan 15.

MANCHESTER: Avril Elgar, Samuel West, Marcia Warren in a fine cast for a comedy which is 99 years old but still the tops: *The Importance Of Being Earnest*.
Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (061 833 9833). Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm; Fri and Sat 8pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm, except today; mat, 2pm, gala perf, 7.30pm. Until Jan 29.

SCARBOROUGH: Set in a food warehouse during the night shift, *The End of the Food Chain* is described as "a comedy with a dark chocolate centre". Tim Firth's fourth play for Ayckbourn's theatre.
Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round (0723 370541). Previews Thurs: 7.30pm; Dec 28, 29, 7.30pm. Opens Dec 30, 7.30pm. Then Tues-Sat, 7.30pm. Until Jan 22.

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT: The great harpsichordist and Baroque specialist Gustav Leonhardt conducts the OAE in a festive programme of two Bach Cantatas (Coffee Cantata and BWV 213, *Hercules auf dem Scheidewege*) and Corelli's Christmas Concerto. Vocal soloists include Barbara Bonney and David Wilson-Johnson.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (071-928 8800). Tues, 7.45pm.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The LSO's performance of John Tavener's haunting, mystical *The Protecting Veil* features cellist Steven Isserlis, the work's definitive interpreter, as soloist. Holst's *The Planets* complete the programme. Richard Hickox conducts.
Barbican, Silk Street, London, EC2 (071-638 8891), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

OPERA

GLORIANA: Phyllida Lloyd directs Opera North's new staging of the blend of ceremonial and intimate drama that makes up Benjamin Britten's coronation opera. Josephine Barstow sings Elizabeth I. The cast also includes Thomas Randle, Susan Chilcott and Clive Bayley. Grand Theatre, 46 New Briggate, Leeds (0532 459351/440971), tonight, Tues, 7.15pm.

TWO WIDOWS: ENO's new production of Smetana's comedy, not seen in London for 30 years, is directed by David Pountney, who is also responsible for the English translation. Marie Mclaughlin, Anne-Marie Owens, David Rendall and Donald Adams are among the cast. Adam Fischer conducts.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London, WC2 (071-836 3161), Mon, Thurs, 7.30pm.

THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER: Last chance to see Music Theatre Wales's stylish staging of Philip Glass's operatic treatment of Edgar Allan Poe's story, directed by Michael McCarthy, evocatively designed by Richard Alwyn and conducted by Richard Alwyn.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), tonight, 7.45pm.

ROCK

DEPECHE MODE: Once noted for their catchy pop, the Essex synthesiser band these days peddle a darker, more European sound.
Sheffield, Arena (0742 565656), today, 6.15pm. **London**, Wembley Arena (081-900 1234), Mon, 7.45pm.

THE SISTERS OF MERCY: Three gigs from the goth-rockers now back on course after band confusion and a five-year disappearance from the live circuit in the latter half of the 1980s.
London, Brixton Academy (071-924 9966), Mon, Tues, 7pm. **Birmingham**, NEC Arena (021-780 4133), Wed, 6pm.

DIGABLE PLANETS: The kooky rappers with the infectious rhythms and oblique lyrics perform a one-off show.
Astoria, London, WC2 (071-434 0403), today, 7pm.

JAZZ

COURTNEY PINE: Not yet 30, this inspired saxophonist continues to fuse reggae and world music into his accomplished jazz.
Jazz Café, London, NW1 (071-916 6000), Wed and Thurs, 7pm.

JULIAN JOSEPH: This week sees a double helping from the London-born jazz pianist. Today he plays classics from Thelonious Monk and Bud Powell at London's South Bank and on Tuesday he puts in a Christmas performance at the Jazz Café featuring surprise guests.
London, Purcell Rooms, South Bank Centre (071-928 8800), today, 8.30pm. **London**, Jazz Café (071-916 6000), Tues, 7pm.

DANCE

NUTCRACKER: Covent Garden's version, produced by Peter Wright, is a nostalgic affair, handsomely dressed by Julia Trevelyan Oman in Biedermeier period designs. But the star of the show is the fantastic growing Christmas tree, a magical delight for children and adults alike.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (071-240 1066), today, 1pm, Mon, 7.30pm, Wed, 7.30pm, Thurs, 2.30pm, 7.30pm.

NUTCRACKER: A last chance today to see Peter Wright's other *Nutcracker*, the one he made for Birmingham in thanks for its support of the Birmingham Royal Ballet. A lucid and exciting production.
Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Birmingham (021-622 7486), today, 2.30pm, 7.30pm.

NUTCRACKER: English National Ballet's fine production, courtesy of Ben Stevenson, arrives for its annual marathon at the South Bank. This year's run features guest stars from America and Russia. The former Kirov ballerina Yelena Pankova returns to dance the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Snow Queen, while the Bolshoi's Yuri Klevtsov will make his company debut. From New York comes Susan Jaffe.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), Wed, 7.30pm, Thurs, 2.30pm, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN: Scottish Ballet is reviving Graham Lustig's version of J.M. Barrie's famous tale.
Theatre Royal, Hope Street, Glasgow (041-332 9000), today, 2.15pm, 7.15pm, Mon, 7.15pm, Tues, 1.30pm, 7.15pm, Wed, 7.15pm.

EXHIBITIONS

LONDON

THE ILLUSTRATORS: Chris Beetles's Christmastime show of the British art of illustration from 1780 on has become an important annual event, and this year reaches its 12th edition. A central theme is "The Illustrator and the Theatre".
Chris Beetles, 8 & 10 Ryder Street, SW1 (071-839 7551). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, until Jan 31.

DEMON OF PAINTING: Trained in the traditional Japanese style, Kawanabe Kyōsai (1831-89) soon broke away into boldly satirical (particularly anti-war work). This is the first extensive showing of his art outside Japan.
British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-636 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, until Feb 13.

THE PORTRAIT NOW: This show brings up to date the 1978 show "20th Century Portraits", and is international in its coverage.
National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2 (071-306 0055). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun 12-6pm, until Feb 6.

150 YEARS OF THE CHRISTMAS CARD: The first Christmas card ever sent is alleged to be one designed by John Callcott Horsley in 1843 for Sir Henry Cole, first director of the V&A. Little did he know what his innovation would lead to. The whole history of the form is covered with many exhibits drawn from the George Buday collection of more than 10,000.
Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-938 8500). Mon, midday-5.50pm, Tues-Sun, 10am-5.50pm, until Jan 9.

DRAWINGS FROM THE J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM: As well as its highly advertised activities in the acquisition of paintings and sculpture, since 1981 the Getty Museum has put together what is already one of the finest collections of drawings in the world. This loan show includes some 120 of them, ranging from Leonardo's *Three Sketches of a Child with a Lamb* to Rembrandt's *Woman with a Snake (Cleopatra)*.
Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438). Daily, 10am-6pm, today until Jan 23. Sponsored by *The Times*.

WRITING ON THE WALL: The first show the Tate has ever devoted exclusively to the work of women artists in the collection. It consists of 20 works by 20 artists, selected by 20 women writers, and includes some surprises. Beryl Bainbridge, for instance, has chosen Lady Butler's *The Remnants of an Army*, not hung since the Fifties.
Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-887 8008). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2pm-5.50pm, until April 10.

TURNER'S VIGNETTES. Much of Turner's illustrative work took the form of tiny vignettes for editions of works by Scott, Byron, and Thomas More as well as Milton and Bunyon. This Clore Gallery show demonstrates how they evolved.
Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-887 8000). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm, until Jan 23.

NEW ART FROM CHINA: This show of post-1989 Chinese art includes 14 painters and five printmakers. The spirit of China after Tiananmen Square compounds cynicism, emotional bondage and escapism, embodied in a startling range of styles.
Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, W1 (071-629 5161). Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm, Sat, 10am-12.30pm, opens Dec 7 to Jan 29.

REGIONAL

DEGAS IN BRONZE: During his later years Degas made 73 finished sculptures on motifs familiar from his paintings (dancers, horses, women bathing), but only one was exhibited in public during his lifetime. There are now only five complete sets of bronzes, and Glasgow is the only venue in Britain for this touring show of one of the sets, from the Sao Paulo Musée de Arte in Brazil.
Burrell Collection, Pollok Country Park, Glasgow (041-649 7151). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 11am-5pm, until Mar 13.

GEORGE WALTON: The distinguished Glasgow architect and designer has been overshadowed by his contemporary Charles Rennie Mackintosh. But 60 years after his death he is worth taking another look at. Though his stylistic development was less individual than Mackintosh's, he also made an interesting transition from Art Nouveau to his own kind of modernism. A long-lasting connection with Kodak proves to be as productive as it is unexpected.
Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, Church Street Brighton (0273 603005). Mon-Tues, Thurs-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, until Jan 9.

FELIX H. MAN: This year is the centenary of Man's birth, and the show celebrates his unique contribution to the development of photojournalism and the photo-essay in Britain: he contributed some 300 photo stories in *Picture Post*. He began working in his native Germany for the *Münchener Illustrierte Press*, and was a writer and critic as well as a photographer. The show begins with his earliest published pictures, of the First World War, and comes right up to the colour work of the Fifties.
National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, Pictureville, Bradford, (0274 727488). Tues-Sun, 10.30am-6pm, until Feb 13.

JOHN MOORES LIVERPOOL EXHIBITION 18: The most regularly distinguished of open competitive shows outside London, the John Moores is a useful barometer of tendencies. This year it highlights what seems to be a return to figurative painting after the conceptual and minimalist years.
Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street, Liverpool (051-207 0001), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, midday-5pm, until Jan 23.

BOOKINGS

IREK MUKHAMEDOV: In a rare appearance outside the Royal Opera House, the Covent Garden star dances the title role in the world premiere of Kim Brandstrup's production of *Othello*. The second half of the programme is a series of divertissements, danced by Mukhamedov and members of his company plus the extraordinary Miyako Yoshida. Included are world premieres by William Tuckett and Matthew Hart, plus pas de deux from Balanchine's *Tarantella*, Vaganova's *Diana and Actaeon* and Petipa's *Talisman*.
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1 (071-278 8916). Feb 9-12, 7.30pm.

NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE 30TH BIRTHDAY SPRING SEASON: The anniversary celebrations open in January with a week of dance, including the St Petersburg Theatre of Clowns, Kokuma Dance Company, Candoco Dance Company, an evening of new works, plus the V-Tol Dance Company (Jan 17-21). A variety of theatre styles are well represented with *Neville's Island* by Tim Firth and starring Tony Slattery (Jan 27-Feb 19), Steinbeck's classic *Of Mice and Men* with Joe McGann and Christopher Ryan (Feb 24-Mar 19); Josie Lawrence in George Bernard Shaw's masterpiece *Pygmalion* (Mar 24-Apr 23), and director Peter Brook's *The Man Who . . .* (Apr 26-30)
Playhouse, Wellington Circus (0602 419419). Now booking.

NEW VIDEOS

FALLING DOWN (Warner, 15): White-collar America (Michael Douglas) goes on the rampage. Joel Schumacher's film, one of the year's talking points, is blackly amusing, but irritates society's sores to no good purpose. With Barbara Hershey. 1993.



Michael Douglas, Barbara Hershey in *Falling Down*

MAP OF THE HUMAN HEART (20.20 Vision, 15): A love triangle jumps across years, continents and cultures. Visually bracing but muddled drama from Vincent Ward, director of *Vigil*. The crazy cast includes Jason Scott Lee, Patrick Bergin and Anne Parillaud. 1992.

MEANTIME (Imagine Home Entertainment, 15): Widescreen video release for Mike Leigh's second cinema film, a downbeat tale of working-class Londoners with little work to do, shot through with Leigh's unique humour. Featuring many stars in the making: Tim Roth, Gary Oldman, Alfred Molina. 1983.

Film: Geoff Brown; **Theatre:** Jeremy Kingston; **Classical Music and Opera:** Gwen Hughes; **Rock and Jazz:** Stephanie Osborne; **Dance:** Debra Craine; **Exhibitions:** John Russell Taylor; **New Videos:** Geoff Brown, **Bookings:** Kris Anderson

WORD-WATCHING

16

LESSES

(c) The dung of a ravenous animal, as a wild boar, wolf, or bear, from the obsolete French *laisses* quasi leavings: "At last falling upon the fumets of a deer, the lesses of a badger."

MANKEEN

(a) Of animals (rarely of persons) inclined to attack men, fierce, savage, recorded later than the synonymous uses of *mankine*, from *man* + *keen*: "If we are over-kind to them [horses], it is more likely to make them mankeen (as we say) than better conditioned."

DEPROME

(c) To draw out or forth, as of wine, to produce, from the Latin *dēprōmere* to draw out, fetch away: Z. Coke, *Logick*, 1654: "From *dēprōmere* to draw out, fetch away: Z. Coke, *Logick*, 1654: "From it, as from a spirituall Artillery, you may deprome all weapons of reason."

EURE

(a) Destiny, fate, whether good or evil, luck, from the Old French *ure, heur, aür*, Latin *augurium* augury, omen; Skelton, 1525: "Ie hath good eure/ Which can hymselfe assure/ How fortune wyll endure."

THE TIMES CHRISTMAS HAMPER / BASKET OFFER

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THEATRE: **Benedict Nightingale** reviews a dark and gripping new RSC production



"As they had seen me with these hangman's hands": Derek Jacobi in the title-role of Adrian Noble's new production. Photo by Donald Cooper

A black journey into paranoia

Macbeth
Barbican

IF YOU were suddenly presented with the name of Derek Jacobi and asked to free-associate, what would be the first words that would occur to you? Graceful, gentle, sensitive, fastidious, delicate, discriminating, subtle and fine, perhaps. Bloody, bold and resolute would not be near the top of your list. Nor would dangerous, powerful, brutal and other adjectives commonly associated with Macbeth. As Scottish butchers go, Jacobi would seem better sluited to paring a Highland lambchop than to carving up Macduffs.



In blood stepp'd in: Cheryl Campbell as Lady Macbeth

As it turns out, that assessment is true, but less damagingly so than you might expect. You cannot quite credit Jacobi as "Bellona's bridegroom" or believe that he would casually stab to death all the attendants slumped and sleeping round Duncan's corpse. But he has a peppy, vivid, hail-fellow quality that helps explain why he has achieved so much status and respect. More importantly, he goes on to embody a greater variety of germane emotions than any Macbeth we have seen in recent years.

This means — and it is no bad thing — that his overall interpretation is harder than usual to read. As I see it, his Macbeth has the imagination to realise some of the consequences of regicide, but not imagination enough either to see them fully or to sense their impact on himself. The result is confusion, bewilderment and despair as he hardens himself to become what, at root, he was never meant to be: the chilling paranoid who, in Adrian Noble's production, can follow his assassins into Lady Macduff's boudoir to double-check their handiwork.

He has some striking moments en route to this climax. After Duncan's murder he goes to pieces much more thoroughly than is usual, throwing aside the daggers as if they were poisonous spiders clinging to his hands and then addressing those hands with a great wail of regret: "pluck out mine eyes!" He runs awesomely amok when his old chum Banquo (genial Christopher Ravenscroft) turns posthumously up at his dinner-party, leaping on the table and appalling the nobility (and, incidentally, preparing for their mass defection) with talk of murder customarily played as an aside. And unlike most Macbeths he actually becomes more, not less, interesting towards the play's end, weirdly veering from blunt malice to truculent glee to throaty scorn to an unsettling affability to the slow, hollow plod of his "tomorrow, tomorrow and tomorrow".

Meanwhile, Cheryl Campbell's Lady Macbeth makes a reverse journey, from a confident callousness to the girlish distraction of her sleepwalking scene. She too has interesting moments — her claim that her pre-murder cocktails have made her bold rather than drunk is untrue, suggesting she is less tough than she thinks — but she maps her emotional trip too deliberately. You can see her wincing as Macbeth distances himself from her, quailing as he lets slip his plans for Banquo and the Macduffs, and generally indicating that in her callow ambition she has denied her real feelings and overrated her real strength.

Noble's production (sponsored, incidentally, by Uniliver) makes much use of black walls, black curtains, a splindly black stairway, and a black platform that carries black-cowled witches towards a black sky. Very black, *Macbeth*, it says. But if the result is not as sinister as it hopes, it is not as pretentious as it might be, and by the end I found myself applauding its clarity and momentum. And does it matter if no supporting actor — Michael Siberry's bluff Macduff may be excepted — makes an especially strong impact? It is Jacobi's evening, one in which he demonstrates that someone not intended by nature to play Macbeth can overcome that little obstacle through the excellence of his art.

Critics pick 1993's top discs

CLIVE DAVIS

SCRATCH most of the finest jazz musicians and you will find a bluesman underneath. Pianist **Randy Weston** brought the two traditions together in the magisterial *Volcano Blues* (Verve/Gitanes Jazz 519269). Melba Liston's sleek arrangements were performed by an expanded line-up including Teddy Edwards and Harriet Bluiett. A cameo appearance, too, by Johnny Copeland, the modern-day T-Bone Walker.

James Morrison left us all bedazzled when he swept into the Brecon Festival on trumpet, trombone, piano and just about any other instrument at hand. *Two The Max* (East West 9031-77125), a quartet date co-led by the venerable bass player Ray Brown, provided excitement and intelligence in equal measure. Though he labours under the unfashionable burden of being balding, stout and Australian, Morrison will undoubtedly be a star of the 1990s.

Adolphus "Doc" Cheatham, a trumpeter of another era altogether, continued to work miracles. *The Eighty Seven Years of Doc Cheatham* (Columbia import CK-53215) was, unbelievably, his first album for a major label. Better late than never, it was a showcase for an endangered school of sweet jazz, played by a man who recorded with Ma Rainey three score and ten years ago.

The ringing of a bell was the cue for *Alarm Clock Stomp* on Thanks (J&M Records J&MCD-502) by the guitarist **Marty Grosz** and his **Collectors Items Cats**. Grosz's brand of revivalism is always spiced with a whimsical sense of humour, in the spirit of Fats Waller.

Besides being among Miles Davis's favourite pianists, **Ahmad Jamal** was one of the few players to cross over into fusion without losing all integrity. Even so, it was wonderful to hear him return, at last, to his all-acoustic roots on *Chicago Revisited* (Telarc CD-83327), an impeccable live date with bassist John Heard and drummer Yoron Israel.

In another of the year's truly memorable concerts, the mercurial Argentine folk-rock singer **Mercedes Sosa** tore the roof off the Festival Hall, helped by a virtually all-South American audience. *Sino* (Philips 514228) was a gentler but no less impressive affair, Sosa's extraordinary voice cushioned by keyboards and deluxe production values.

HILARY FINCH



Anne-Sophie Mutter: compelling

THE YEAR began with a reflection on time itself: the superb German violinist **Anne-Sophie Mutter** playing Wolfgang Rihm's mysterious and compelling *Gesungene Zeit*. This work, written in 1992, is inspired by the beguiling image of a singing rock, and it forms the perfect complement to Mutter's outstanding performance of Berg's Violin Concerto (DG 437 093-2).

Then came the next treat, a boxed set of Haydn's six Op 20 Quartets played by the **Quatuor Mosaïques** (Astrée Auvidis E8784). This quartet play in so-called "period instrument" style with biting attack and minimal vibrato, but it is intelligence and musical sensitivity which sets them apart.

Nothing is taken for granted, either, in **Brigitte Fassbaender**'s latest recording of 25 of Hugo Wolf's settings of the poetry of Eduard Mörike (Decca 440208-2). In close partnership with her wide-awake pianist, **Jean-Yves Thibaudet**, she probes deep into the psychological centre of these songs. Both of them respond as urgently and excitedly to the words as the composer did himself. Finally, yet another garland for the Grieg Songs of the Swedish mezzo-soprano, **Anne Sofie von Otter** accompanied by **Bengt Forsberg** (DG 437521-2). This was the revelation of Grieg year, with its selection of Norwegian and German songs, popular and rare, and with the haunting, hitherto under-estimated songcycle, *Haugtussa*, at last raised to the stature it deserves.

DAVID SINCLAIR

THE debut album by Los Angeles trio **Grant Lee Buffalo**, called *Fuzzy* (Slash/London 828 389), was not only an album of brooding mystery and rugged charm, it also redefined the use of a 12-string, acoustic guitar. In the hands of singer and songwriter Grant Lee Phillips, this apparently innocent instrument becomes a heavyweight musical tool with a myriad of possibilities, from the delicate strumming of "The Hook" to the torrents of distressed noise on "Grace".

Also in the business of minting fresh sounds from traditional instruments were **Fleshquartet** from Sweden. Featuring the vocals of Freddie Wadling and Stina Nordenstam — a combination of the battered and the beautiful — against a backdrop of drums, violin, two cellos, percussion and viola, their album *Flow* (MVG 113; import) was a delightful pan-cultural cocktail, embracing everything from Arabic and Indian influences to blazing hip hop grooves.

In a more traditional vein, **John Mellencamp** reasserted the eternal verities of rootsy, guitar-driven rock with his brilliant album *Human Wheels* (Mercury 518 088). Here was an old rocker still able to conjure a mood of passionate enquiry in songs such as "Junior" and the tough "What If I Came Knocking".

Suede waltzed off with the bouquets (not to mention the Mercury Music Award) for their melancholy, self-titled debut (Nude NUDE 1), and deservedly so. But it was their fellow Londoners, **The Auteurs**, who pulled off the more telling stroke with their audaciously-titled album, *New Wave* (Hut HUT 7). With "Show Girl" and "Starstruck", singer Luke Haines celebrated the English songwriting heritage of David Bowie and Ray Davies with songs that bear comparison with the best popular music from any decade.

Other indispensable albums of 1993: *Palomine* by **Bettie Serveert** (Brinkman/Guernica BR 004); *14 Songs* by **Paul Westerberg** (Sire/Reprise 9362-45255); *Black Tie White Noise* by **David Bowie** (Savage/Arista 74321 13697); and *Saturation* by **Urge Overkill** (Geffen GED 24529).



Grant Lee Phillips: brooding

STEPHEN PETTIT

MY FIRST choice would be **Paul McCreesh** and the **Gabrieli Consort** with their atmospheric reconstruction of the Vespers for the Feast of the Annunciation of 1643 as it might have been performed at St Mark's, Venice (DG Archiv 437 552-2). Wonderfully evocative of the ceremonial, even though the recording was made at Brinkburn Priory in Northumberland. Better, I think, than the Christmas special from Rome just released. Then I would choose **Sir Peter Maxwell Davies** and the **BBC Philharmonic** on Collins Classics (Collins 13662) with a committed performance of Maxwell Davies's *Black Pentecost*, a "green" piece of immense humanity whose social messages, so eloquently expressed, we should all heed, with the equally impressive proto-symphonic *Stone Litany* as a substantial filler.

Pierre Boulez and lots of other fine, mostly British musicians are featured in Sony's brave re-issues of his Schoenberg recordings made in the 1970s and early 1980s. They includes the wonderful 1975 *Gurrelieder* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra (Sony Classics SM2K 48 459, two discs) — but don't miss out on the others.

Finally, **Simon Rattle** and the City of **Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** give a scintillating live account of a contemporary masterpiece that speaks equally directly and deeply: Hans Werner Henze's Seventh Symphony (EMI CDC 754762 2).

JOHN HIGGINS

THE three best opera sets of the year all grew from performances in the theatre. Bologna provides Rossini's **La Cenerentola** (436 902-2, 2 CDs) which fully justified Decca's support of the young mezzo Cecilia Bartoli. Her smoky tones are just right for Cinderella, whether by her fireside or dispensing forgiveness all round in the final rondo. But this is truly an ensemble piece and Riccardo Chailly's control of his Bologna team is exemplary.

More young Italians, led by Alagna and Fabbricini, star in Sony's **La Traviata** (S2K 52 486, 2 CDs) from La Scala, conducted by Muti. But for the full flavour of the performance you need either the video or laserdisc of Liliana Cavani's shrewd production.

The pick of the excellent recordings Philips is bringing from the Kirov company of St Petersburg under Valery Gergiev is Tchaikovsky's **The Queen of Spades** (438 141-2, 3 CDs). Grigorian as the obsessed Herman and Gulegina as Lisa provide the authentic Russian sound.

For the authentic American sound, top selection goes to Bernstein's **On the Town** (DG 437 516-2, 1 CD). Michael Tilson Thomas, the LSO and an all-star cast give it the full razzle-dazzle. As with *Traviata*, the laserdisc version is even better.

TONY MCGEE



Cecilia Bartoli: smoky tones

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GRAND CLASSICAL GALA
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MENDELSSOHN Overture Fingal's Cave, ROSSINI Largo al factotum *Barber of Seville*, HANDEL Hallelujah Chorus *The Messiah*, JEREMIAH CLARKE Trumpet Voluntary, VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Greensleeves, VERDI Anvil Chorus *Il Trovatore*, DUKAS The Sorcerer's Apprentice, ELGAR Pomp & Circumstance March No. 1, ALBINONI Adagio GOUNOD Soldiers' Chorus *Faust*, VERDI Di Provenza *La Traviata*, BORODIN Polovtsian Dances *Prince Igor*, LEONCAVALLO Prologue *I Pagliacci*, JOHANN STRAUSS Radetzky March, RAVEL Bolero
Tchaikovsky '1812' OVERTURE
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TUESDAY 28 DECEMBER at 7.30
GRAND OPERA GALA
National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor David Coleman
Malcolm Sargent Festival Choir
Fanfare Trumpeters of the Grenadier Guards
'THREE GREAT OPERA STARS'
Sop Julie Dalton Tenor Anthony Mee
Baritone David Barrell
VERDI Overture *The Force of Destiny*, PUCCINI Che gelida manina, Si mi chiamano Mimi, O soave fanciulla *La Boheme*, VERDI Eri tu *A Masked Ball*, PUCCINI One fine day, Humming chorus *Madam Butterfly*, VERDI Dio che m'ali amar Don Carlos, VERDI Grand March *Aida*, PUCCINI Intermezzo *Manon Lescaut*, VERDI Brindisi, Di provenza il mar *La Traviata*, PUCCINI Vissi d'arte, E lucevan le stelle, Te deum *Tosca* VERDI La donna è mobile *Rigoletto*, VERDI Ritorna Vincitor *Aida*, VERDI D'amor sull'ai rosee & miserere *Il Trovatore*, VERDI Chorus of Hebrew Slaves *Nabucco*, PUCCINI NESSUN DORMA & FINAL SCENE *Turandot*

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IGOR OISTRAKH
40th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
BEETHOVEN
Overture Leonora No.3
BEETHOVEN
Violin Concerto in D
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PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
Conductor ARNOLD KATZ

THURSDAY 30 DECEMBER at 7.30
GRAND TCHAIKOVSKY GALA
National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor David Coleman
Band of the Grenadier Guards
STARS OF THE MOSCOW CITY BALLET
Svetlana Filippova and Dmitri Romanov*
Elvira Rikova and Arkady Ustantsev*
Fantasy Overture, Romeo & Juliet
**Swan Lake - Pas de deux*
Eugene Onegin - Waltz & Polonaise
Capriccio Italien
March - Symphony No.6
**Nutcracker - Grand Pas de deux*
Overture "1812"
with cannon & mortar effects
SPECTACULAR LASERS

FRIDAY 31 DECEMBER at 7.30
GRAND OPERA GALA
National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor David Coleman
Malcolm Sargent Festival Choir
Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Engineers
FOUR GREAT OPERA STARS
Soprano Susan McCulloch Mezzo Sally Burgess
Tenor Edmund Barham Baritone Keith Latham
Ov.HANSEL & GRETEL, Largo al factotum BARBER OF SEVILLE, Anvil Chorus IL TROVATORE, O mio babbino caro GIANNI SCHICCHI, On with the motley I PAGLIACCI, Flower duet LAKME, Duet THE PEARLFISHERS, Soldiers' Chorus FAUST, Grand March AIDA, Softly awakes my heart SAMSON & DELILAH, Toreador's song CARMEN, Ride of the Valkyries DIE WALKURE, Quartet RIGOLETTO, Habañera CARMEN, Love duet OTELLO, Musetta's Waltz LA BOHEME, Intermezzo CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA Chorus of Hebrew Slaves NABUCCO, Nessuns dorma & Final scene TURANDOT
Overture & Party Scene DIE FLEDERMAUS
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VIENNESE NEW YEAR GALA
National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor David Coleman
The Strauss Ballet Company
Suppe Overture Light Cavalry
Johann Strauss II *Excerpts from* Graduation Ball*, Romantic Waltz*, Good Girl Polka*, Perpetuum Mobile*, Cuckoo Polka, Emperor Waltz, New Year Galop*, Hungarian Polka*, Egyptian March, Chatterbox Polka, Tales from the Vienna Woods, Pizzicato Polka, The Blue Danube Waltz*
Josef Strauss Anvil Polka,
Waldteufel Skaters' Waltz, Waltz Espana*
Johann Strauss I Radetzky March, Bahn Frei
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With many surprises to celebrate the New Year
*Items to be danced

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Tomor 19 Dec 7.30pm	**HOLST: THE PLANETS** London Symphony Orchestra, Richard Hickox cond., Steven Isserlis cello, Ladies of the London Symphony Chorus, Prog. also inc. Tavener *The Protecting Veil* £5 £9.50 £13 £15 £20 £28	*LSO Ltd*
Mon 20 Dec 7.30pm	**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** Christmas Concert Owain Arwel Hughes cond., Jeremy Agostini narr Humperdinck *Ov. Hansel and Gretel* Prokofiev *Troika* from Lieutenant Kije Patterson Lake Red Riding Hood Tchaikovsky Swan Lake excerpts Rimsky Korsakov Capriccio Espagnol Carols for audience £27 £21 £16 £10 £5	*RPO Ltd*
Tue 21 Dec 7.30pm	**ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** Christmas concert. Stephen Cleobury cond., John Mark Ainsley tenor, John Amis nar Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Saint Saens Carnival of the Animals Britten Saint Nicolas. A selection of carols £19 £15 £10 £5	*English Chamber Orchestra and Music Society*
Wed 22 Dec 7.30pm	**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** John Scott cond., Ray Simmons, Gerald Ruddock, St Paul's Cathedral Choir, Britten *A Ceremony of Carols* Bach *Jauchzet, Frohlocket* Arnold Fanfare on Christmas Carols Ireland *The Holy Boy* Rizzoa A Christmas Sequence Vivaldi Concerto for Two Trumpets Hely-Hutchinson Carol *Symphony Carols* for choir audience £27 £21 £16 £10 £5	*RPO Ltd*
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Thu 23 Dec 7.30pm	**THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS** Lon. Conc. Orch., Philip Simms cond., B. Bottone tenor, C. Steele-Perkins trpt, T. Tallis Choir, Cap. Arts. Traditional Christmas offerings from Bach, Handel, Stanley, Berlioz etc. with carols for choir, children's choir and audience. £19.50 £17.50 £15.50 £10.50 £7.50	
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Tue 28 Dec 3.00pm	**TEDDY BEARS CONCERT** Lon. Conc. Orch., Fraser Goulding cond., special guest presenter Phillippa Forrester, Mad Alasdair Malloy percussion, Patrick Harrild tuba. Prog. inc. Sleigh Ride, Sleeping Beauty Waltz, Tubby the Tuba etc. £9.80 (£8.80 if accompanied by a teddy bear)	
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Wed 29 Dec 3.00pm	**BALLET GALA** Lon. Conc. Orch., Daryl Griffith cond., Dancers from London City Ballet. Music from *Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, Romeo & Juliet, Coppelia, Les Patineurs* and Graduation Ball £19.50 £17.50 £14.50 £12.50 £8.50 under 16's £12.50 £10.50 £6.50	
Wed 29 Dec 7.30pm	**GILBERT & SULLIVAN GALA** Lon. Conc. Orch., David Steedman cond. The Magic of Gilbert and Sullivan Chorus and Soloists. Excerpts from *The Mikado, The Gondoliers, HMS Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance, Patience, Iolanthe, Ruddigore* £21.50 £19.50 £15.50 £11.50 £8.50	
Thu 30 Dec 3.00pm	**VIVA VIVALDI-THE FOUR SEASONS** Mozart Festival Orch. Ian Watson dir., Prog. also inc Concerto for Two Trumpets: Concerto for Two Violins in A minor Concerto for Two Violins and Cello in G minor. *L'Estro Armonico* Concerto for Two Mandolins £19.50 £17.50 £14.50 £11.50 £8.50	
Thu 30 Dec 7.30pm	**THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA** Anthony Inglis cond., Philip Fowke piano Glinka *Ov. Russlan & Ludmilla* Sibelius *Finlandia* Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No.2 Dvořák Symphony No.9 *From the New World* £24 £21 £18 £13.50 £9.50	
Fri 31 Dec Sat/Sun 1/2 Jan 7.30pm	**THE LSO/NEW YEAR VIENNESE CONCERT** London Symphony Orchestra, John Georgiadis cond., Waltz, March and Polka into the New Year with selections from the Strauss family, Lanner and Ziehrer £7 £10 £13 £15 £20	*LSO Ltd*
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TOMORROW at 3 pm (A few seats only left)
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GLORY OF CHRISTMAS
BACH *Christmas Oratorio* Opening Chorus
Air on a G String; Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring
HANDEL Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
Messiah: For Unto Us a Child is Born & Worthy is the Lamb; Ombra Mai Fu (Handel's Largo)
ADAM The Holy City; GOUNOD Ave Maria
FRANCK Panis Angelicus; CLARKE Trumpet Suite
STANLEY Trumpet Voluntary
BERLIOZ *L'Enfance du Christ* Shepherd's Farewell
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HANDEL .....Water Music Suite
GRIEG .....Piano Concerto
BEETHOVEN.....Symphony No.6 *Pastoral*
MICHAEL REED conductor
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Marriage of Figaro Ov, Eine kleine Nachtmusik
Piano Concerto No.23, Horn Concerto No.4
Symphony No.41 *Jupiter*
IAN WATSON piano/dir RICHARD WATKINS horn
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*These items will be danced
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Concertos for 2 Trumpets; 2 Violins and 2 Violins & Cello "The Little Christmas" *(from L'Estro Armonico)*; 2 Mandolins; and The Four Seasons
MOZART FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA, IAN WATSON director
ALISON KELLY & DAVID JURITZ violins, JOHN HELEY cello
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CRISPIAN STEELE-PERKINS & EDWARD HOBART trumpets
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GLINKA.....Russlan & Ludmilla Overture
SIBELIUS .....Finlandia
RACHMANINOV .....Piano Concerto No.2
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Sun 19 Dec 7.30	**THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC** Resident at the RFH Marius Jansons (cond) London Philharmonic Choir. Verdi Four Sacred Pieces: Debussy Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune; Respighi Pines of Rome. £28, £20, £17, £13, £8, £5	*Lon Phil
22 Dec-22 Jan 2.30 7.30	**THE NUTCRACKER** English National Ballet. Evenings at 7.30 pm: (excluding 24-26 Dec); Matinées at 2.30 pm: (29-24 Dec; 27 Dec-1 Jan; 3, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22 Jan) £32, £28, £25, £21, £15, £7	*ENB/*SBC

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Sat 18 Dec 7.45	**PHILIP GLASS: THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER** Music Theatre Wales's production of the classic horror story, with Glass's haunting & compelling score. Cast inc. Julian Pike, Gwion Thomas & Anne-Marguerite Elkass. RETURNS ONLY	MTW
Sun 19 Dec 3.00	**NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA** (2nd Orch) V Price (cond) Suppé Ov. Pique Dame; Delius 2 Aquarelles; Coates The Three Elizabeths; Walton Crown Imperial; Elgar 3 Bavarian Dances; Arnold 4 Scottish Dances. £8, £5.50, £3.50	*NCO
Sun 19 Dec 7.45	**NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA** Christopher Adey (cond) Wagner Overture, Die Meistersinger; Sibelius Valse Triste; Holst The Perfect Fool; Gregson Concrete; Roussel Bacchus & Ariadne, Suite 1. £12, £10, £7.50	*NCO
Mon 20 Dec 7.45	**HANDEL: MESSIAH** London Bach Orchestra, Nicholas Kraemer (director) Sponsor: Goldsmith Jones and Partners and Wellton Foundation. £8.50 (ONLY)	Goldberg Ensemble Promotions Ltd
Tue 21 Dec 7.45	**ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT** Gustav Leonhardt (cond) Bach Cantata BWV.211 (Coffee Cantata); Cantata BWV.213 (Hercules auf dem Scheidewege); Corelli Christmas Concerto. RETURNS ONLY	*OAE/*SBC
Wed 22 Dec 7.00	**A SEASONAL CELEBRATION** London Festival Orchestra Ross Pople (cond) Southend Boys' Choir. Vivaldi The Four Seasons; Britten A Ceremony of Carols; Mozart Eine kleine Nachtmusik. £20, £17.50, £15, £10, £7.50	*LFO
Thu 23 Dec 7.45	**CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE** City of London Choir, Hilary Dewan Watson (cond) Janis Wezza (organ/piano) Sponsor: Bankers Trust Company £11.50, £9.75, £8, £6.50	*CoLC
27 Dec-1 Jan 7.00	**MOZART: COSI FAN TUTTE.** Music Theatre London presents a fully staged production of Così Fan Tutti in a dazzling & delightful English translation. A treat for both opera lovers and theatre goers. £17.50, £14, £10, £6	MTL*

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Sunday 19 Dec 11.30 am NB: starting time	**THE NASH ENSEMBLE,** Michael Collins clarinet Sunday Morning Coffee Concert Mads Gade (1817-90): Piano Trio in F Op 42 Mozart: Clarinet Quintet in A K581 £15 including programme and coffee/sherry/juice	
Wednesday 29 Dec 7.30 pm	**THE KING'S CONSORT.** Robert King director Susan Gritton soprano. James Bowman countertenor Pergolesi: Salve Regina. Corelli: Concerto Grosso in F Op 6 No 9 D Scarlatti: Salve Regina; Pergolesi: Stabat Mater £16.00, £12.50 (all others sold)	
Friday 31 Dec 7.30 pm	**THE KING'S CONSORT.** New Year's Eve Celebration. Robert King dir, soloists incl S Gritton, J Bowman, M Wallace, M George, C Steele-Perkins Telemann: Musique de Table; Vivaldi: Gloria in D; Purcell: Music from *The Indian Queen*, Handel: As with rosy steps, I will magnify thee, O God. £15.00, £12.50, £7.50 (all others sold)	
Saturday 1 Jan 7.30 pm	**ALBERNI STRING QUARTET** Philip Dukes viola Mozart: String Quintet in B flat K174; String Quintet in D K593; String Quintet in G minor K516 £12, £10, £8, £6	Sarah Gordon Concert Management

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A frumenty message from the rams: sell the wife

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

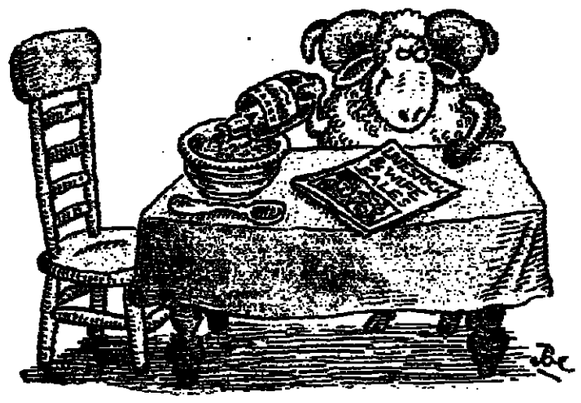


Christmas is not the time to go raking over old marital disputes, but there is good reason. My wife and I have never seen eye to eye over rams: she loathes them, finds them aggressive, smelly and unkempt. I, on the other hand, am rather proud of them. They have five weeks of lusty glory with the ewes every year and then retire to a corner of a field to chew over the season's conquests, reminisce about the old days, and feed heavily. All that is missing is the salmon and cucumber striped tie. My wife sees none of this, and will not have them near the house, and so I have to walk to a far corner of the farm for a quiet five minutes with the lads.

So what has this got to do with frumenty, the recipe I promised you for Christmas? It will become clear. I asked you to have ready your wheat, about half a pound of it. If you cannot get wheat, you can try barley: but frumenty needs wheat like pigs need snouts and so I would hunt hard for the real McCoy. Let us be clear about one thing before we start, we are not dealing with some fly-by-night concoction dreamt up by a TV cook. The Bible of 1551 says *"And ye shall eat neither bread, not parched corn, nor frumenty of new corne, until the selfsame days that ye have brought an offering unto your God."* And they didn't get it from Keith Floyd.

Having got your wheat, you now have to "cree" it. You can make as much or as little of this process as you wish. As it is the time-honoured practice of this farm never to take the easy way if a harder one can be found, I suggest the following method. You need a haybox. This is a box large enough to take whatever bowl or pan you are going to cook your wheat in, plus a good few inches extra. Put the wheat in the pan, cover with cold water and bring just to the boil. Then plunge it in the hay-box. The insulating effect of the hay will mean that your wheat crees very slowly overnight.

I realise that gathering wheat may have been difficult enough and finding hay may be the last straw, so to speak. The easy way is to cover the wheat with a pint and a half of water and place it in the bottom oven of the Aga, or over a pan of simmering water, for 24 hours. This will give you creed wheat, which looks disgusting. It is thick, jellyfish without wobbling, and yields to a knife like a vat of molten chewing gum. Do not worry, it is all going to come good; this stuff was on the menu at the coronation feast of Henry VII. And if you think all this cookery nonsense has little to do with farming, let me tell you that the price of wheat has never been lower and if we can oust the hamburger and replace it with drive-thro' frumenty parlours, we are all on to a good thing.

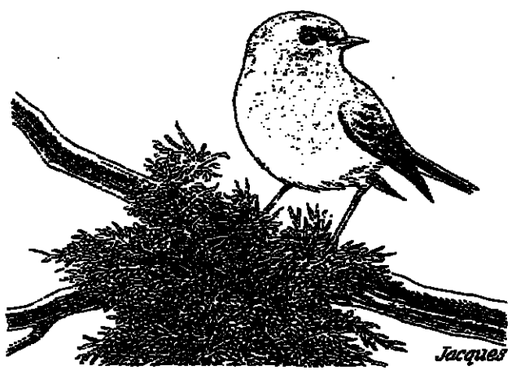


Having creed your wheat and having found the stomach to face it, you now add the spices: half a teaspoon of ground allspice, or nutmeg, or cinnamon (or why not all three?), two ounces of sugar, 4oz of currants, or raisins, or sultanas (or all three — it *is* Christmas). Add a pint of creamy milk and boil for ten or 15 minutes and serve hot with cream or milk. Delicious. You can add a drop of brandy if you like. I am grateful to Theresa Blank of Plymouth, and a hundred others, for this recipe. She adds that if it ends up a little thin, you can add flour and water. If, on the other hand, your first attempt ends up with a mixture robust enough to line the Channel tunnel, Alice the Large Black sow will not turn her sooty nose up at it.

There are even more complicated ways: Craig Sams of Whole Earth Foods, who claims to be a regular frumenty maker, soaks his wheat for three days till it sprouts and sweetens naturally. He points out that a good helping is highly nutritious, costs less than a packet of crisps, and that is a shame we have forgotten that whole wheat is the most nutritious food in the world. Keep talking, Craig. I can hear the price edging upwards as you speak.

Which brings us back to the rams. You may remember that my quest for furmity, as Thomas Hardy calls it, started after a casual remark by Bill, our visiting American farm-hand way back in the summer. He remembered *The Mayor of Casterbridge* and how Henchard was persuaded to sell his wife after being intoxicated by spiked "furmity". Well, our rams are pure Dorset bred, and know their Hardy backwards. That is why there is a look in their eye inviting me to be generous with brandy, in the hope that I, in an intoxicated state, will flog the missus. They see it as their only hope of getting their hoofs under the table this Christmas.

Feather report



Jacques

Robins are busy singing, often in the middle of the night

Season's bird greetings

I have been examining robins on Christmas cards. There are still plenty of them looking out of the holly with beady eyes, and most of them are not badly painted. All the same, live robins are much more beautiful. The Christmas card artists rarely show the delicate blue line that frames the red breast, and often omit even the white plumage below it. In nature, that is conspicuous. If you look up at a robin singing directly over your head in a hawthorn, you might think it was a white-breasted bird.

Robins are singing all over Britain now, except on a few mountain tops and moors. In London, in lamplit gardens, they can be heard in the middle of the night. In fact, far more robins sing in the winter than in the summer. This is because they sing in order to defend a territory — and in winter the female robins take up territories and sing too. In spring, the male's song also becomes a wooing song, and the females give up their independence and find a mate. If their winter territory was next to the male's, they bring him quite a slice of land too.

The song is very sweet and penetrating, but has its variations. Normally a long burst of clear, liquid notes is followed by a softer passage; then the robin draws breath and launches itself again into a heartfelt outcry. It sits in a very characteristic way when singing, rather upright.

When two robins are in conflict over a territorial border, they will sometimes sing fiercely at each other, interspersing salvos of song with loud, ticking calls. They also lift their heads, display their red throats and breasts, and sway from side to side. It is the sight of the intruder's red breast that angers the territory owner, and it is these signals from the owner's red breast that in turn help to drive the invader away.

However, the robins perceive all this in a very different fashion from us. In his classic book, *The Life of the Robin*, published exactly 50 years ago during the war, David Lack described a fascinating experiment. If he put a stuffed robin, with its red breast painted brown, in a robin's territory, the stuffed bird was ignored. But if he hung a bunch of robin breast feathers in the territory, without the rest of the bird, it was attacked. Robins would appear to see just the significant parts of other robins, not the birds as wholes.

They have a hard time of it when there is deep snow on the ground, because they feed mainly on small insects that run about on the leaves. That is the time to feed them. They are probably such popular birds because they are so tame — which is another way of saying that they are bold in their exploitation of humans. When it is hard to find food on the ground, they will dance attendance on pheasants that are scratching up the leaf-litter, or on unseen moles that are throwing up their mounds of earth. From there it is only a short step to sitting on the handle of a gardener's spade. Back to the Christmas cards!

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — wintering green sandpipers around small lakes, rivers and ditches. Twitchers — black-winged stilt at Titchwell RSPB reserve, Norfolk: hoopoe at Romsey, Hampshire. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 36p a minute cheap rate, 45p at all other times.*

New stories from old chestnuts

In our final coppicing report, **Bea Cowan** visits a renewed woodland

TONY WHITE



Sarah Stallard and Tom Lynham, two London designers who have found a commercial outlet for their ideas in the coppices of rural Kent

Tom Lynham and Sarah Stallard, designers who have found an international market for their work, survey part of the 2,000-acre woodland at Mereworth in the Weald of Kent. In every direction stretch the stumps of newly felled trees. Broken branches lie scattered around. Last autumn's leaves pile up in drifts.

The scene might represent a battlefield, but for Mr Lynham and Ms Stallard this area of woodland offers a rich source for design ideas soon to reach the market.

In the stumps, or stools as they are correctly called, of newly coppiced sweet chestnut they see the means of a new concept in garden and household furniture.

"Coppice woodland like this provides a regular supply of constantly renewable timber," Mr Lynham says. "The stumps produce new, 6ft-high shoots after two seasons. In ten to 15 years these, too, can be felled. More will grow."

Coppicing was once a mainstay of rural life, and the cyclical felling enabled wildlife, such as butterflies, birds and wild flowers, to flourish before the trees sprouted again. The new trunks provided a variety of products, from charcoal to hop poles, and gave a living to the woodcutters of the region, who sold the less valuable parts of the trees to the paper mills.

Then, in 1989, the coppiced wood industry collapsed. Partly because of the growing enthusiasm for recycled paper, the pulp mills lost their market. Coppice timber lost its value and the woodcutters went out of business.

Now a scheme is under way to restore the coppice industry and the woodland life which depends on it. A team of experts working for the Kent Rural Regeneration Project is hoping to bring back such a life to the rural community.

The project co-ordinator, Geoffrey Buchan, of Hadlow College near Tonbridge in Kent, already knew Mr Lynham and liked the designer's radical approach to the scheme, so he invited him and Ms Stallard to join his team. Mr Lynham, who trained as a graphic designer and has worked in Germany and Italy, designed the well-known Flexi-handle which, he says, has sold to 27 countries. He shares a studio with Ms Stallard, an interior designer.

The pair saw the commercial scope for chestnut timber stretching far beyond the posts and fencing it had traditionally provided. Pooling their ideas at home in their London flat in the evenings, they have produced designs that exceed even Mr Buchan's expectations. "Sweet chestnut is incredibly durable," Mr Lynham says. "Even when green and unprocessed, the timber lasts far longer than imported soft wood."

Their new look at age-old needs has produced the "Hedgehog", a multi-use woodblock. Wood scrap, left after the coppicer has done his job, is compressed to make a wooden block, which can be used as a walling brick, paving, or as a component for motorway fencing. With it, the home gardener can build decorative walls (putting plants in the gaps between blocks) and create raised lawns and tiered flowerbeds. The wood block is claimed not to rot and to enhance the environment. At one stroke, Mr Lynham says, gardeners have the means to improve their garden while the woodcutter finds a market for his waste.

"This is not so much about design," Mr Lynham says, "more about a very good idea."

In the past, chestnut logs were split only lengthways to make planks. It would seem obvious to do more with such useful wood, so Mr Lynham and Ms Stallard have designed items from see-saws to wine racks, and from stools to coat hangers, using the wood unsplit.

They have devised attractive fencing, easily made by the woodcutter on site, and simple to erect in a garden.

Technology has opened other channels. Using industrial fret and band saws, the team has produced designs using deep profiles drawn into logs and blocks. These will fashion anything from interlocking supports and decorative mouldings to folding furniture, hammocks, cupolas and trellises.

In the well-equipped workshops of South Kent College, Folkestone, experts will oversee young trainees and ensure the standards required. The products will be marketed in small batches or in multiple runs. Trainees may later take the skills they acquire into other productive areas.

Others may be pleased when they see the designs. Graced with the logo of a tree and its shadow, representing its lasting effect on society and the environment, the first of these products will be sold in garden centres in the spring.

Mr Lynham has often felt that many design-related projects only touch the surface of living. "This rural regeneration project is to do with employing and training people and renewing our woodlands. It has great potential, with which I am very happy."

● *For further information on the Kent Rural Regeneration Project, contact Geoffrey Buchan, Project Coordinator, Hadlow College, near Tonbridge, Kent.*

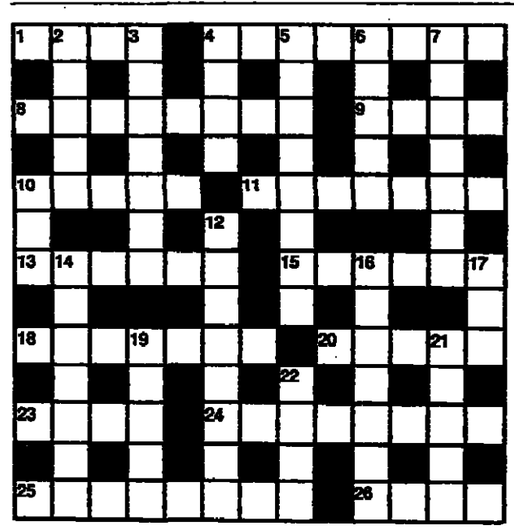
NOILLY PRAT



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L'APERITIF DEFINITIF! Before lunch, before dinner- the delicious, dry, rounded, taste of Noilly Prat cleanses the palate and stimulates the appetite like no other aperitif. Fine wines matured in oak for 3 years in the sun-drenched South of France, enriched with a secret blend of more than 40 herbs, produce the unique taste. Experience Noilly Prat today- simply chilled or with ice.

FRENCH, DRY AND MISUNDERSTOOD.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 42

ACROSS

1 Stiff paper (4)
4 Crazy (8)
8 Carbon from partly-burnt wood (8)
9 In addition (4)
10 Meat jelly (5)
11 One of five top flat races (7)
13 Country wherein is Mt Ararat (6)
15 Small enclosed study area (6)
18 Slopes for new skiers (7)
20 Brave wife (5)
23 Undecided (4)
24 Fragrant shrub, large white waxy flowers (8)
25 Imposing bearing (8)
26 Frame of wood (4)

DOWN

2 Mount; musketeer (5)
3 Oil-drill support (7)
4 Highest New Zealand mountain (4)
5 New Zealand rugby player (3,5)
6 Russian fermented bread drink (5)
7 Temporary relief (7)
10 Play a part (3)
12 Lightest element (8)
14 One seizing throne (7)
16 Ask politely (7)
17 Sound like a cow (3)
19 Skull cavity (3)
21 Burning (5)
22 Loyal (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 41

ACROSS: 1 Methuselah 7 Terrace 8 Climb 10 Release 11 Plaza 12 Uphill 15 Remand 17 Caret 18 Aurochs 21 Peter 22 Regatta 23 Hollow legs

DOWN: 1 Moral 2 Tiara 3 Uneven 4 Escapee 5 Ali Baba 6 Stirrup cup 9 Brandy-snap 13 Horatio 14 Literal 16 Barrow 19 Rogue 20 Cutis

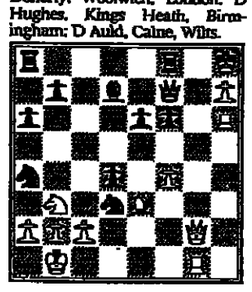
CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: Crosswords on computer (circa 60 puzzles per title — enhanced graphics) for all IBM and Acorn PCs. Price £10.70 each. Range includes: The Times Crosswords — Volumes 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 14,15 & 16 (8ks). The Times Jubilee Puzzles. The Times Concise Crosswords — 3 & 4. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 1,2,3,4, and 10 and 11 (8ks). The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords — 1 & 2. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques to Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

Just released for Christmas. The Times Crosswords 17. The Times Concise Crosswords 5. The Sunday Times Crosswords 12. The Sunday Times Computer Crosswords — Vols 5 & 6 £10.70 each.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a possible conclusion from the game Speelman - Gulko, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1989/90. How does White force a quick mate?



Send your answers on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a British Chess Magazine book. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 Rxe8+

Last week's winners are: A E Doherty, Woolwich, London: D Hughes, Kings Heath, Birmingham: D Auld, Calne, Wilts.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

LESSES
a. Rhetorical disparagement
b. Wasting fever
c. Dung of a ravenous animal

MANKEEN
a. Keen to bite men
b. A manikin
c. A kind of Chinese ribbed silk

DEPROME
a. To reduce in rank
b. To unload
c. To produce

EURE
a. Destiny, fate
b. A cold East wind
c. Discovery

Answers on page 13